

Jordan Times

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Bulletin Ship seized off Alexandria

ROME (R) — Palestinian commandos demanding that Israel free about 50 Palestinian prisoners boarded an Italian passenger liner after it left the Egyptian port of Alexandria Monday, an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman said there were 454 people aboard the 23,629-ton Achille Lauro. Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti was in contact with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdel Meguid and with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) about the incident, the spokesman added. He said the commandos had not identified to which group they belonged, and it was not clear how many of them there were. The spokesman said the liner had left the northwest Italian port of Genoa four days ago on a Mediterranean cruise.

Aubert heads for Egypt, Israel

ZURICH (R) — Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert left for the Middle East on Monday amid conflicting statements over whether he would act as a mediator between Egypt and Israel. Mr. Aubert told parliament last Thursday he had been asked by Egypt to carry a message to Israel explaining Cairo's position on the Middle East peace process after Israel's attack on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis. But Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported on Friday that Cairo denied asking Mr. Aubert to carry such a message. Since then the Swiss government has refused to comment on whether Mr. Aubert would serve as a message-bearer during the tour, his fourth Middle East trip this year. He will spend four days in Egypt before proceeding to Israel, also for four days. The Foreign Ministry, however, has denied speculation in Bern that a Swiss initiative on the Middle East is afoot and the government has said Switzerland would do no more than offer its "good offices."

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Key congressman seeks to block arms sales to Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — A key congressman said he aimed to block in Congress the sale of advanced arms to Jordan. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dante Fascell, a Democrat, joined 11 other lawmakers in a letter to the full house urging that the sale of advanced aircraft and weapons systems be held up until Jordan agrees to "prompt negotiations" with Israel. The congressmen said they were deeply concerned by Jordan's call for an international conference on the situation in the Middle East. The bipartisan group of congressmen sent the letter seeking support for an amendment to this year's foreign aid bill which said any sale of advanced aircraft or air defence systems to Jordan should be tied to progress in its negotiations with Israel. Congressman Larry Smith, a Democrat and author of the letter, said he did not believe Jordan had recently made any progress towards talks with Israel.

Soares asks to be relieved of duties

LISBON (R) — Socialist leader Mario Soares asked to be relieved of his duties as Portugal's caretaker prime minister on Monday following the defeat of his party in a general election on Monday. In a letter to President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, Mr. Soares said the victory of the Social Democrats meant there was no reason for him to stay on as head of the caretaker government and proposed that Social Democrat Vice-Premier Rui Machete should replace him until the formation of a new administration (Earlier story on page 8).

GCC chiefs of staff meet

RIYADH (R) — Gulf chiefs of staff began talks in Riyadh on Monday on military cooperation among the armies of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. SPA quoted GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara as saying the two-day meeting would centre on a common defence force under a unified command, agreed by GCC leaders last November. He added that arms industries in the six states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — would also be on the agenda (Bona backs talks on big deal with S.Arabia, page 2).

UNHCR appeals for funds

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Monday appealed urgently to governments for funds to resolve a financial crisis he said was jeopardising present and future aid to refugees. High Commissioner Poul Hartling told the 41-member UNHCR Executive Committee that despite earlier pleas his organisation was still short of \$74 million to finance its 1985 activities. If the money did not come in, planned health and education services for refugees would have to be reduced and building of some houses and schools stopped, Mr. Hartling said.

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2 Palestinian victims of Israeli raid on Tunis laid to rest in Egypt

Opposition parties urge Mubarak to sever diplomatic relations with Israel

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of Palestinian and Egyptian mourners shouted anti-American slogans at a funeral here Monday for two victims of Israel's raid on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis last week.

They yelled "Down with America" and gave V-for-victory signs as an honour guard of unarmed Palestinian soldiers in red berets carried the two coffins. Riot police flanked an ambulance taking the coffins, draped in red, green, black and white Palestinian flags, to the "Martyrs' Cemetery" near the city reserved for war dead. Fouad Abou Fattah and Saad Mohammad Badawi were buried in Egypt because their families live here. Thirty-one raid victims were buried in Amman on Monday. They were among nearly 70 people killed in the Israeli attack last Tuesday, which was condemned by the U.N. Security Council (See page 2) and which sparked intense Arab anger against both Israel and the United States, which said the raid was justified. Protests continued on Monday in Egypt, the only Arab country to have signed a peace treaty with Israel, and opposition leaders urged President Hosni Mubarak to sever ties. A few Egyptians at the funeral carried banners denouncing the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords of 1979 which led to the treaty and diplomatic ties with Israel. They demanded the expulsion of Israeli Ambassador Moshe Sasson. Leaders of five leftist and right-wing opposition parties met Mr. Mubarak and urged him to break ties in protest against the Tunis attack. "We demand that the Egyptian government respond to the popular will," they said in a statement. The raid "underlined U.S. disrespect for the Arab Nation," the leaders of the Wafd, Socialist, Progressive, Labour, Nationalist, Socialist Liberal and Islamic Umma parties said. At Cairo University, about 1,200 students and teachers said prayers for those killed in the Tunis raid and called on the government to declare Jihad (holy war) on Israel.

Residents return to wrecked homes, scarce supplies in Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Thousands of refugees streamed back to Tripoli on Monday as Syrian troops occupying the war-stricken city strengthened their grip in strategic areas. It was a bitter homecoming for many of the estimated 500,000 people who fled the northern city during 19 days of fighting between Muslim fundamentalists and Syrian-backed leftist militias attacking them. The city still lacked water and electricity, and few shops had reopened. Red Cross trucks brought in emergency supplies. There was no word, however, on three Soviet officials kidnapped in Beirut a week ago by a group demanding an end to the "atheistic" militia assault on Tripoli for their freedom. The group, which killed Soviet diplomat Arkady Katkov after seizing him with the others, has made no authenticated statement since last Wednesday, though the Tripoli peace pact appeared to meet their demands. A purported message from the kidnappers telephoned to a U.S. news agency in Beirut Saturday night — saying the hostages would not be freed, and urging the "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) to hold on to its American hostages — did not appear genuine. "My house is destroyed," sobbed a middle-aged woman, her face grimed with soot from her blackened apartment. "May God hum and destroy them as they have done to us." Police, now re-installed in bullet-scarred buildings that changed hands twice in the fighting, said no more than 30 per cent of refugees had found their homes immediately habitable. No district escaped the sustained rocket, artillery and tank fire from nearby Syrian-held areas, which intensified on Sept. 28 when leftist militias launched a full-scale assault on the "Islamic Unification Movement" (Tawheed).

Fighting breaks out in Sabra and Shatila

BEIRUT (R) — Fighting involving machine-guns and rocket-propelled grenades broke out in two Palestinian refugee camps on Beirut's outskirts on Monday, security sources said, but who was involved in the clashes was not immediately clear. Radio stations said the fighting at the Sabra and Shatila camps was between Shi'ite Muslim militiamen and Palestinians. The Shi'ite Amal militia, which waged a five-week battle to take over Beirut's three Palestinian camps in May and June, said it was abiding by previous ceasefire agreements. The clashes were "due to internal differences among Palestinian organisations," it said in a statement. Eyewitnesses said there was little traffic around Shatila, where smoke from the fighting hung over deserted streets. But light traffic moved in and out of Sabra.



REGENT VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, confers with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai during a visit he paid to the Prime Ministry on Monday (Petra photo)

McFarlane expects Mideast peace process to progress within a month

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane has said he expects progress on peace talks between Israel and Jordan. "I don't think it's prudent to comment on what formula can lead us toward ultimate direct negotiations, but the president wants us to continue to try," he said. Mr. McFarlane also said that Israel's raid last week on a PLO base in Tunisia, which had been condemned by some administration officials and called justifiable by others, would not harm the peace process. He said the raid would not damage U.S.-Tunisian relations. In Cairo, the semi-official newspaper Al-Ahram said Monday the planned meeting between the U.S. and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation was expected to take place before the middle of next month. Quoting informed sources, Al-Ahram said the dialogue will be held in three stages — two of them in Amman and Cairo and the third in Washington. The newspaper also said Egyptian officials are expected to take part in the meetings as observers in one or more of the stages.

Ugandan soldiers 'go on rampage'

KAMPALA (R) — Hundreds of government troops launched an orgy of killing, rape and looting in western Uganda on Monday following hours of fierce fighting with rebels, eyewitnesses said. Travellers reaching Kampala said 30 truckloads of soldiers who had been sent to dislodge guerrillas of the National Resistance Army (NRA) from their strongholds, disbanded in disarray after coming under heavy artillery and gun fire near Kayabwe, 80 kilometres southwest of Kampala. The troops spread into surrounding villages, raping women and pillaging homes, the travellers told reporters. Some soldiers shot at civilians at random, killing some, the travellers added.

Iran plans new pipeline to offset decline in Kharg exports

BAHRAIN (R) — Iran plans to build a 320-kilometre pipeline along the Gulf coast to keep oil exports flowing despite repeated Iraqi attacks on its main Kharg Island terminal, shipping sources in the region said Monday. They said Iran had invited tenders from Italian, Japanese and West German groups for the \$1.2 billion pipeline, which was expected to stretch from fields in the Kharg area of the northern Gulf to Lavan Island further south. The sources did not name the companies. The sources said they believed Iran wanted work on the mainly land-based pipeline, capable of handling about 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil, to start next month and be completed in January. The link would augment a makeshift oil terminal off Sirri Island in the southern Gulf and another outlet from Geneva, on the mainland northeast of Kharg, expected to come on stream by the end of this month, they said. Iraqi air raids on Kharg since mid-August have severely hampered Iran's oil export capability, the sources said. Oil revenue is a vital source of cash for Iran to finance its five-year-old war with Iraq. The shipping sources said Iran recently bought two so-called single-huoy moorings from which oil could be pumped at sea to tankers. They said one huoy was expected to be deployed on the roughly 21-kilometre twin-pipeline loading facility from Geneva, and the other at the end of the link between the Kharg area and Lavan, a well-guarded island just off the mainland.

Heath's attack on Thatcher underlines Conservative strains

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Former Prime Minister Edward Heath attacked the British government on Monday, highlighting strains within Margaret Thatcher's ruling Conservative Party on the eve of its annual conference. Mr. Heath, ousted as Conservative leader by Mrs. Thatcher in 1975, said the party was too concerned with its image and not enough with the government's failure to deal with Britain's economic problems, notably unemployment. "There are innumerable resolutions about presentation. What we have to do is recognise that after six years the policies have not dealt with the problems," Mr. Heath told an interviewer on British Television. "I hope ministers will recognise that there is more than one view in the Conservative Party and that there ought to be a very free and full discussion of the great issues," he said. The Conservative conference begins in this working-class seaside resort on Tuesday under the shadow of a big swing to the left in the opinion polls and a lingering sex scandal. Mr. Heath and former cabinet ministers such as Francis Pym and James Prior oppose Mrs. Thatcher's strict monetarist economics. Mr. Heath criticised the party's new deputy chairman, millionaire novelist Jeffrey Archer, for saying young Britons were refusing to take jobs that were there. The Mirror newspaper on Monday unveiled plans to publish extracts from Tuesday of the memoirs of Sara Keays, one-time mistress of the party's former chairman Cecil Parkinson.

11 Israelis injured in Jerusalem explosion

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Eleven Israelis were wounded in a large explosion in West Jerusalem on Monday and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) claimed responsibility for the attack. Israeli police said the explosion was due to a gas leak and gave few details of the incident, but the Palestinian news agency, Wafa, said in a report from Sam'a, North Yemen, that the attack was aimed at a building of the Israeli intelligence. Wafa said the attack was carried out by the "Martyr Shastri" commando unit in retaliation for last week's Israeli air attack on the headquarters of the PLO in Tunis. Shastri was the nom de guerre of one of the PLO military officials killed in the raid. He was buried in Amman on Monday. The Israeli army claimed later on Monday that Israeli soldiers have killed four Palestinian commandos in an encounter near the occupied West Bank town of Hebron. The army said the four belonged to a cell responsible for the death of three Jews, including two hikers whose bullet-riddled bodies were found in hills outside Jerusalem on Saturday. The army said another commando was wounded and captured in the encounter on the southern slopes of Hebron. The statement did not disclose when the incident occurred or whether the group fired back. The statement contended the group had been active in the Hebron, Ramallah and Bethlehem areas and was responsible for the killing of a Jewish settler in Ramallah last March. The group had carried out four gun attacks on Israeli buses, in which 17 people were wounded, it claimed. Other reports from the occupied territories said Monday that Arab detainees at an Israeli prison at Askelon near the Gaza Strip were continuing a hunger strike in protest against inhuman treatment by the prison authorities.

Islamabad seeks more than \$6.5 billion in U.S. arms, aid

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan has asked the United States to more than double its arms-and-aid package to \$6.5 billion when the current five-year plan ends in 1987, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said Monday. It has also asked Washington to extend loans for the defence half of the package on concessional terms rather than at the market rates some loans for the current \$3.2 billion debt carry, it quoted Finance Minister Mahbub ul Haq as saying. Mr. Haq, who said negotiations for the new package would be completed early next year, was speaking to APP in Seoul where he is attending the annual meeting of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Reacting to the report, Western diplomats here said any significant boost in American arms aid to Pakistan was bound to come in for heavy criticism from neighbouring India. New Delhi, which has fought three wars with Pakistan since independence in 1947, has always doubted the current package was meant only to boost Islamabad's defences following the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979. It has criticised the delivery of 40 F-16 fighter jets and other modern military hardware as a step towards improving Pakistan's offensive capabilities, which could be used against India. APP said Mr. Haq learned during a meeting on Monday with Peter McPherson, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), that Pakistan would receive "special consideration" despite a general cut-back in American aid.

E. Germans mark anniversary with grand military parade

EAST BERLIN (R) — East German tanks and armoured cars rolled through East Berlin on Monday in a grand military parade to mark the 36th anniversary of the communist state's foundation. Head of state Erich Honecker looked on as Defence Minister General Heinz Hoffmann led columns of soldiers and sailors marching down the wide flag-hedgeed Karl-Marx-Allee, formerly known as Stalin Allee. Crowds gathered under signs declaring "Fraternal hands with the Soviet Union are the foundation of our future" and "space must be demilitarised" — a reference to Washington's project for a space-based weapons system. Uniformed U.S. and British soldiers also watched, exercising their rights in the city under post-World War II agreements with their former Soviet allies. The usual flyover of helicopter gunships and fighter-bomber aircraft was cancelled because of foggy conditions. Military experts who watched the hour-long parade and several rehearsals in the past week said there did not appear to be any new weaponry on display. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is due to meet President Reagan in Geneva next month and the United States is currently considering recent Kremlin arms concessions.

Jordan to reduce insurance firms

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajal Muasher said here Monday that the government plans to reduce the number of insurance companies in the country by merging smaller companies into bigger entities.

Dr. Muasher was speaking at a meeting with representatives of the insurance companies operating in Jordan. The meeting made a general review of the status of these companies and their importance to the national economy were discussed. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Also discussed were difficulties which these companies encounter at present due to shrinking markets in the whole Middle East region.

Dr. Muasher said the main problem facing the insurance sector is the numerous companies and their rivalry, and said that it would be a good idea to form unified insurance offices for insuring vehicles.

At the meeting, the participants discussed the establishment of an institute for training personnel employed in the insurance business, along the lines of an institute for bank employees.

Jordan has 33 insurance firms, including several partly foreign owned. The new law required them to raise paid-up capital to 600,000 dinars (\$1.6 million) by November next year and deposit 25,000 dinars (\$73,000) with the government and in local shares and bonds.

Industry sources say the insurance business last year was poor because of the worldwide economic downturn and some of the firms suffered losses or made only small profits.

Khamenei sees little need for Gulf blockade

TEHRAN (R) — The chances that Iran will need to impose a naval blockade on the Gulf are slight although it has the ability to do so, President Ali Khamenei said in an interview broadcast Monday by Tehran Radio.

"The possibility is close to zero that the Iraqis can hit Kharg so badly that our oil exports are completely cut off," Khamenei said. "But it is possible and we must be prepared to implement our threat."

He was referring to the Kharg Island oil export terminal which Iraq has damaged in a series of air

raids since mid-August.

Iran has repeatedly said it will blockade the narrow Strait of Hormuz at the entrance to the Gulf if Iraq succeeds in halting Iranian oil exports from the Gulf.

"In war it is normal that damages be incurred," Mr. Khamenei said. "But the Iraqi claim that no or very little oil is being exported... is a lie. Iran is exporting oil from Kharg right now and will export more in the future."

He spoke after watching naval manoeuvres and target practice in the strait, where all shipping must pass close to the Iranian coast.

Palestinian refugees trapped in Tripoli

VIENNA (Agencies) — The staff of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) have discovered about 1,500 Palestinian refugees sheltering in a basement in Tripoli, Lebanon, without food or water, the agency has said.

UNRWA's Deputy Commissioner-General, Robert S. Dillon, told a briefing session for diplomatic missions in Vienna that arrangements were being made to deliver food, water, bedding and cooking equipment to the refugees. It was not immediately known how long they had been trapped by the factional fighting in Tripoli, now in its third week.

Fierce fighting in Tripoli has forced more than 2,000 Palestinian refugees to flee the city to the nearby Nahr al-Bared and Beddawi Palestinian refugee camps.

UNRWA has launched an emergency relief programme for the displaced refugees. Kitchen kits, mattresses, blankets and food are being supplied.

Medical services are available at UNRWA health units in the two camps. The UNRWA clinic in the

Al Mina district of Tripoli has been temporarily closed as fighting prevented staff and patients from reaching the clinic. Medical staff from Al Mina have been redeployed in Nahr al-Bared Camp.

The emergency operation is being co-ordinated by UNRWA from a temporary office in a hotel south of Tripoli. During a lull in the fighting on Sept. 26, staff and essential documents were able to be moved out of UNRWA's area office in Tripoli.

The number of UNRWA local staff in Lebanon reported missing during the past three years, and still unaccounted for, totals 100, Mr. Dillon said.

Also missing is UNRWA information consultant Alec Colet kidnapped near Beirut on March 25, 1985.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck has appealed for the release of Alec Colet.

"He is still in detention by unknown kidnappers," Mr. Rydbeck told a meeting of government representatives.

"Whatever governments here present can do to add to the con-

U.S. reportedly abstained on U.N. vote to protect Tunisia

NEW YORK (R) — The United States abstained on a U.N. vote condemning Israel's Tunisian raid to protect the Tunis government from possible overthrow by Libyan-backed mobs, the New York Times said Monday.

A White House aide said there was overwhelming information suggesting a United States veto would provide Libya with an emotional issue with which to unleash leftist students and other groups into the streets, the Times reported.

The paper quoted administration officials as saying that Washington privately explained its position on the Friday vote to Israel and American Jewish groups Monday. The United States usually vetoes such U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning Israel.

It quoted Israeli and American officials as saying that Secretary of State George Shultz called Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, who was in New York, to explain that Washington viewed the Israeli raid last week on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis as "legitimate self-defence against terrorism."

President Reagan, in his weekly radio address on Saturday made a point of stressing U.S.-Tunisian friendship.

Tensions have been high for months between Tunisia and Libya.

Sudan's transitional leaders satisfy few, disappoint many after April coup

By Jonathan Wright

Reuter

KHARTOUM — Sudan's transitional leaders have satisfied few and disappointed many in six months of rule since the overthrow of President Jaafar Numeiri.

High hopes generated by last April's popular uprising look ever more misplaced as the ruling military council of generals and the civilian cabinet fend off with inaction a host of often incompatible demands.

The timid process of dismantling Numeiri's institutions and purging his supporters has fallen short of the expectations of influential leftists who claim a key role as moral guardians of the April revolution.

Armed rebellion continues in the south with renewed vigour, with the rebels rejecting Khartoum's peace overtures as a cover for plans to impose a military solution.

Wage rises have brought the government respite from widespread labour unrest, at the cost of disarming the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other foreign creditors.

Prospects for elections to a constituent assembly in time for the promised end of transitional rule are receding fast as rival politicians squabble over the details.

Political parties, fronts and alliances have sprung up by the score in the new atmosphere of freedom, all clamouring for attention in a cacophony of demands and condemnations.

A mutiny by troops in Khartoum last month, later described as a coup attempt, caught the authorities off guard and their handling of the incident in the media backfired to exacerbate tensions between Arab northerners and the non-Arab south.

In the meantime, rights led by the Muslim Brotherhood, discredited by association with Numeiri, are rallying to calls for law and order and reaffirmation of Islamic principles.

Among the mainly northern politicians in Khartoum, the most contentious issue remains how far to go in punishing officials of the Numeiri era, known as the "servants of May" after the May 1969 coup which brought the former president to power.

Bahaddin Idris, former minister at the presidency, is already on trial on charges of interfering in other ministries, while former Vice-President Omar al Tayyeb is expected in court shortly to answer charges of facilitating the transfer of Falasha Jews from Ethiopia to Israel via Sudan.

But the National Alliance, grouping forces which claim to have toppled Numeiri, has repeatedly expressed disappointment at the slowness of the process and wants the government to set up popular revolutionary courts to "remove the effects of May."

Badreddin Mudathir, leader of Sudan's Baath Party and an alliance member told Reuters the government was stalling because Numeiri figures still held positions of power in military intelligence and other branches of the armed forces.

The cabinet itself is based on a system set up under Numeiri, Mr. Mudathir added.

Head of state Gen. Abdul Rahman Swarredahab, chairman of the Transitional Military Council, was Numeiri's deputy commander-in-chief until he stepped in on April 6 and announced a one-year period of transition to full civilian rule.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which helped draft Numeiri's Islamic Laws of September 1983 and cooperated with him to within two months of his downfall, says few people could escape implication in the former president's 16 years of rule.

The Brotherhood newspaper Al Raya has even suggested the government reinstate "honest" members of the old and much-maligned state security apparatus, dissolved after April.



SHARIF ZAID LEAVES FOR EGYPT: Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker left Amman on Monday heading a military delegation on an official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Egyptian Minister of Defence and Military Production Field Marshal Abdul Hakim Abu Ghazalah. Sharif Zaid was seen off at the airport by

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Bonn backs talks on big Saudi arms deal

DUESSELDORF, West Germany (R) — West German arms firms are discussing a multi-billion dollar deal with Saudi Arabia and have Bonn government backing for their negotiations for the first time, one of the concerns involved said Monday.

A spokesman for Rheinmetall said the deal involved construction of an armaments factory to produce ammunition for tanks and artillery and that the total value was estimated at six to eight billion marks (\$2.3 to 3.1 billion).

He said the West German government had approved the discussions, marking a break with its past policy of preventing major arms and equipment deliveries to the Middle East.

News of the talks, broken by the news magazine Der Spiegel at the weekend, appeared likely to embarrass the government on the eve of a visit to Israel by President Richard von Weizsaecker, the first by a West German head of state.

The Rheinmetall spokesman said Saudi Arabia was also discussing the project with other countries and that concrete negotiations on a contract were not likely before 1987.

Saudi Arabia last month signed a \$4 billion deal with Britain for the delivery of 132 aircraft, including 72 Tornado fighters produced by Britain, West Germany and Italy.

The Rheinmetall spokesman said the West German bid for the order would involve his company delivering the production equipment. Project management would be in the hands of Thyssen Rheinmetall Technik, a subsidiary of the huge Thyssen concern.

Industry sources said the Essen firm Wasag-Chemie was also involved in the discussions.

The Rheinmetall spokesman said talks with Saudi Arabia were concentrating on plans for the factory and there had so far been no exchanges on actual equipment deliveries.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl signalled his readiness to relax restrictions on arms exports to Saudi Arabia during a visit there in 1983 and came under fierce attack from Israel.

Bonn had previously barred major arms deals with Arab countries out of sensitivity towards Israel but the Kohl government has expressed concern at the loss of lucrative markets to other Western states.

It has, however, continued to resist Saudi interest in buying West Germany's Leopard-2 main battle tank.

Von Weizsaecker to make first visit to Israel

BOON (R) — President Richard von Weizsaecker will Tuesday begin his first formal visit to Israel by a West German president since the two states were born nearly 40 years ago.

The four-day visit will require all the sensitivity the West German president commands.

With Israel widely condemned for its air raid last week on Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunisia, Mr. Von Weizsaecker will be unable to duck political realities for the sake of reconciliation.

"I have never experienced a visit that took place in a clinically hermetic environment," says Mr. von Weizsaecker, a World War II soldier and son of a Nazi diplomat.

The 65-year-old president is expected to repeat Bonn's public condemnation of the raid as a violation of sovereignty.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Beji al-Caid Essabi has said that 68 Palestinian and Tunisian civilians died in the attack.

The fact that Bonn also denounced the killing of three Israelis in Cyprus, whose deaths the Tunisia raid was intended to avenge, will make his task slightly easier.

But Mr. Von Weizsaecker, perhaps more than any previous West German president, has acquired the moral authority to address the Jewish state by squarely facing German guilt for the past.

In his 15 months in what was once a powerless, ceremonial post, his eloquent appeals for understanding, moderation and reconciliation have made him West Germany's most respected political figure and a source of national inspiration.

In a moving speech to parliament on May 8 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany, he declared that Germans could not evade responsibility for their country's past.

Mr. Von Weizsaecker, who has already visited Egypt and Jordan, will make his views on the Tunisia raid known to his host, he said reporters at an informal briefing last week.

Gemayel, Urquhart discuss UNIFIL

BEIRUT (R) — President Amin Gemayel on Monday discussed renewal of a mandate for U.N. troops in South Lebanon with U.N. Under-Secretary-General Brian Urquhart. "I had useful talks with President Gemayel. I am here on a short visit prior to the U.N. Security Council session next week designed to discuss extending the mandate of UNIFIL (U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon)," Mr. Urquhart told reporters.

Iraq reports 23rd attack on Kharg

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes, launched a destructive raid on Iran's main Kharg Island oil terminal on Monday, the 23rd such attack since mid-August. A military spokesman said the planes attacked the island in the north of the Gulf at 1.10 p.m. (1010 GMT) and all returned to base. The spokesman said the attack was aimed at further damaging oil facilities.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30... Koran

17:30... Children Programme

18:10... Eleven Hour

18:45... Just Our Luck

19:00... Local Programme on Safety

19:30... News Programme

20:00... News in Arabic

21:00... Arabic Series

21:30... Tomorrow's Programmes

22:00... News in Arabic

23:10... Series Contd.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00... de chiffres de lettres

18:30... la chance aux chansons

19:00... News in French

19:15... le vent du large

19:30... News in Hebrew

20:00... News in Arabic

20:30... Lucy Amara Show

21:10... Lake House

22:00... News in English

22:15... Feature Film: 1st Lady

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

& party on 95.60 KHz, SW

774111-19

07:00... Light Music

07:30... News Desk

08:00... Morning Show

08:30... News Summary

09:00... Morning Show Contd.

10:00... Pop Session Contd.

10:30... News Summary

11:00... Pop Session Contd.

11:30... News Summary

12:00... News Bulletin

12:30... Instrumental

13:00... Country Music

13:30... Concert Hour

14:00... News Summary

14:30... Instrumentals

15:00... Old Favourites

15:30... Science Report

16:00... Pop Session

16:30... News Summary

17:00... Top Twenty

17:30... Newsdesk

18:00... Date with a Star

18:30... Evening View

19:00... News Summary

19:30... Evening Show Contd.

20:00... News Summary

20:30... Evening Show Contd.

21:00... News Summary

21:30... Evening Show Contd.

22:00... News Summary

22:30... Evening Show Contd.

23:00... News Summary

23:30... Evening Show Contd.

24:00... News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition of paintings by Hussein Madi at the Petra Bank Art Gallery.

* An exhibition of paintings by Koussey Mousayyad at the Royal Cultural Centre.

* An exhibition of "Posters and Aviation" at the French Cultural Centre.

MUSIC WEEK

* The Jordanian musicians associations work at 7:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

* The ABC News at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

VIDEO

* "Chateaufort" 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 661026/7

American Centre Tel. 643771

French Cultural Centre Tel. 641220

British Council Tel. 636147-8

French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009

Goethe Institute Tel. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 642023

Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 642049

Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777

Haya Arts Centre Tel. 645195

Hittite Youth City Tel. 647181/86

Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641799</

U.S. commodity corporation allocates \$35m credit line to local banking consortium

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A \$35 million credit guarantee line has been allocated by the U.S. Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) to a consortium of local banks. The credit guarantee will be used to finance the purchase of U.S. agricultural commodities for Jordan, according to a press release from the Amman-based Finance and Credit Corporation (FCC), which is the local agent and manager of the package.

The loan, to be paid within the next three years, is guaranteed by the Jordanian government and the CCC on the American side. Under the agreement, U.S. exporters will provide Jordan with \$27 million worth of wheat (150,000 tonnes) and a further \$6 million worth of corn (25,000 tonnes).

The deal also includes a purchase of protein meal and/or concentrates of vegetable and animal origin at a cost of \$2 million.

The \$27 million for the wheat purchase and \$4 million of the total for corn imports are due to be reserved for purchase by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply.

The local banking consortium financing the programme includes the Petra Bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, the Jordan Kuwaiti Bank, the National Financial Corporation and the FCC. The CCC (against the guarantee of finance) gives its guarantee to the exporters for 98 per cent of principal FOB value in addition to six per cent interest.

The date of shipment will be before the end of the current year.

Jordan participates in talks on Arab telecommunications

DAMASCUS (Petra) — Jordan is taking part in the Arab Telecommunications Union (ATU) sixth conference which began in Damascus Monday with the participation of delegations from 20 Arab countries. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahed Ismail, who is leading Jordan's delegation to the conference, said that the participants will discuss the prospect of using the facilities of the Arab Satellite Communications Organisation and the Arab satellite.

Arabsat, for transmitting television programmes throughout the Arab region.

He added that the week-long conference will also discuss the Arabisation of technical terms, the exchange of expertise among Arab countries as well as the strengthening of Arab telecommunications networks. Among the major topics to be discussed during the conference will be supporting the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Lebanon and Mauritania in telecommunications field.

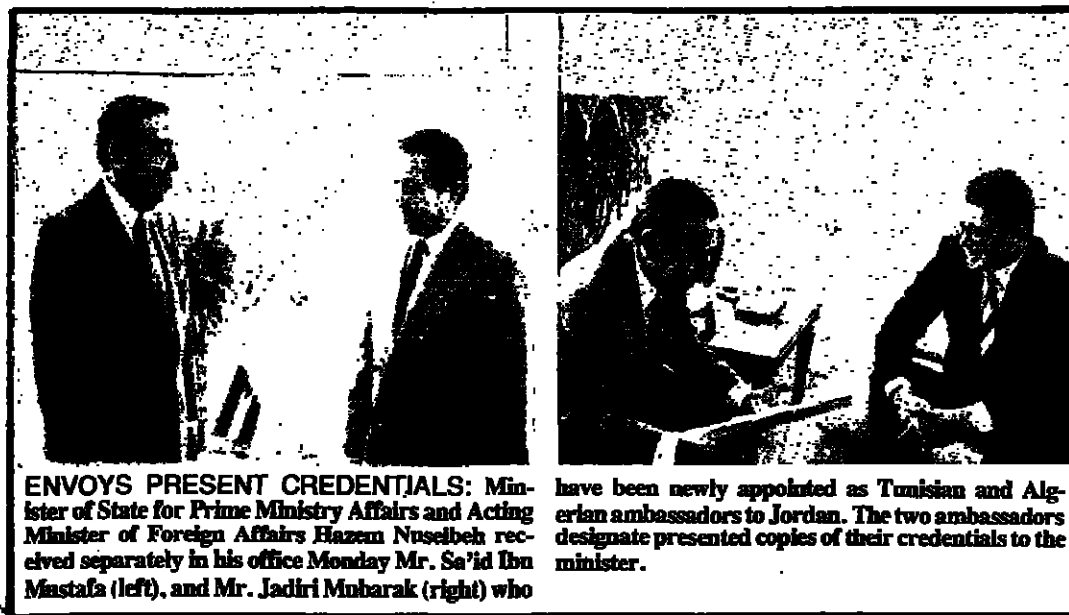
Hmoud returns from conference on environmental protection

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Hmoud has returned to Amman after attending a conference on development and the environment in Africa and the Middle East. The conference, which was held in the Hague, focused on issues related to development and ways of protecting the environment and the role of non-governmental organisations in this concern. In addition, it reviewed methods of controlling industrial pollution and boosting agricultural development.

paper to the conference dealing with local means of protecting the environment and outlining national environmental programme, the minister said.

According to Mr. Hmoud, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs will launch training courses on methods of environmental protection in Jordan to be held in cooperation with experts in this field from foreign countries.

Mr. Hmoud was accompanied to the conference by representatives from his ministry and by Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber from the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.



ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS: Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Hazem Nusseibeh (left) received separately in his office Monday Mr. Sa'ad Ibn Mustafa (left), and Mr. Jadiri Mubarak (right) who have been newly appointed as Tunisian and Algerian ambassadors to Jordan. The two ambassadors designate presented copies of their credentials to the minister.

JPMC chairman promises no lay offs at Ruseifa, despite temporary closure

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Ali Khreis, chairman of the board of directors of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), Monday assured workers and staff of the Ruseifa factory that the company will not lay off any personnel as a result of the temporary stoppage at the mines in Ruseifa. The stoppage, he said, was necessary due to extraordinary circumstances and shrinking world markets for phosphates.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, Mr. Khreis said that JPMC strives to create jobs and he added that the company will pay full wages to all staff and workers for the duration of the stoppage. But JPMC has asked some staff, technicians and workers at the Ruseifa mines to move to the other mines at Hassa, Wadi Abiyad and Shideh to help with production at these factories and

mines, he said. Referring to the causes behind the closure of mines at Ruseifa, Mr. Khreis explained that some of the phosphates produced at the JPMC's three mines at Ruseifa, Hassa and Wadi Abiyad go to the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company in Aqaba but a shrinkage in world markets, which used to buy fertilisers has led to a drop in phosphate prices.

Mr. Khreis said that most of the products from the Jordanian mines are exported to nearly 30 nations which in turn process the phosphates and use them in the manufacture of fertilisers. The phosphates mined at Ruseifa are not high enough in quality to be readily marketed abroad and so the JPMC has found it necessary to close the mines temporarily, Mr. Khreis added.

New markets

JPMC, he said, has been seeking new markets for its products by offering best quality raw phosphates which now being mined at the mines in the southern parts of Jordan. The staff and workers at Ruseifa will sooner or later be absorbed by the other mines, Mr. Khreis added.

JPMC general manager Wasef Azar supported Mr. Khreis's statement and said that the company hopes to resume mining at Ruseifa at the lowest possible cost. He also stressed that there are no plans to lay off any workers and staff because of the temporary closure.

JPMC employs 3,143 workers of whom 617 are employed at the Ruseifa mines and the rest are employed at the other mines and at the Ruseifa phosphates research centre, according to Mr. Azar.

Sharari urges joint efforts to establish youth, sports facilities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Hisham Al Sharari said here Monday that his ministry will cooperate with municipalities and local councils to build sports and youth facilities in Jordan.

The minister was addressing a meeting held at Al Hussein Youth City and called to discuss sports facilities and installations to be established this year.

The minister underlined the importance of cooperation between the ministry and local communities in order to promote the sports movement in Jordan and he said that his ministry plans to encourage all forms of sports activities in the villages and towns of Jordan. Mr. Sharari also announced that the cabinet has already made allocations for such sports and youth facilities in various regions of the Kingdom.

At the meeting, the subject of budget deficits in youth and sports clubs in Jordan was discussed in addition to the required facilities which could improve sports programmes in the country. The minister said that a special ministerial committee has been set up to supervise the distribution of financial assistance to these youth centres in cooperation with provincial governors.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abul Tayyeb, the director general of the Jordan Youth Organisation, Mr. Isam Arifa, the director of Al Hussein Youth City and the mayors of Salt, Ramtha, Karak, Mafraq, Jerash, North Shuneh, the president of the Zarqa Development Corporation and representatives of youth centres in Ma'an, Karak, Tafleh, Mazar and Aqaba.

Red Crescent team attends conference on narcotics

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has participated in the first international conference on narcotics which concluded in Norway on Oct. 2nd. The three-day conference was organised by the Norwegian Red Cross society in cooperation with the League of Red Cross Societies (LRCS).

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, member of the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) executive committee, Mr. Fahd Al Ejajah, who represented Jordan in the conference, said that among the papers discussed during the conference was a Jordanian paper on the role of the government in combating narcotics and the prevention of drug trafficking. A second study on the situation of narcotics in Jordan, prepared by the JNRCS in cooperation with the Public Security Department, was also discussed during the conference, Mr. Ejajah added.

He pointed out that the conference recommended the establishment of rehabilitation and treatment centres for drug addicts which would be linked with Red Cross and Crescent Societies in cooperation with concerned parties. These centres, he said, would look after addicts' families, draw up a plan to prevent dealing in narcotics and would also adopt an intensive media campaign to explain the risks of narcotics. Taking part in the conference were 35 delegations representing various Red Cross and Red Crescent societies.

Police catch 'professional' thief

AMMAN (J.T.) — A thief who robbed eight lawyers' and doctors' practices in Amman over the past few months has been apprehended by the police, according to Brigadier Ghazi Jarrar, the director of Amman Police Department. Brig. Jarrar said the thief was apprehended Sunday following a robbery on another doctor's clinic from which he stole a number of cheques. The police director said that when the department was informed about the robbery, a police force was assigned the task of catching the thief and contacts were made with local banks to ensure that the cheques would not be cashed. Several plain clothes policemen were posted at a number of banks where they waited for the thief to make an appearance. The thief soon afterwards made his appearance at a bank and was promptly apprehended as he tried to cash the cheques. Brig. Jarrar added, He said the thief, who he identified only as S.H., has been detained for questioning before trial.

U.K. firm announces educational competition for Arab children

AMMAN (J.T.) — An educational competition is now being launched in Gulf countries and Jordan with over 100 prizes to be won by children aged 15 or under, according to a press release. The contest has been designed to promote interest in natural history and geography by requiring children 15 years or younger to correctly identify the natural habitat of six birds and to complete a tie-breaker sentence. The competition runs from Oct. 1 with the deadline for entry being Dec. 31, 1985. The winning entries will be announced in February of 1986.

Special prizes are two distinctive beautifully illustrated Arabic natural bird books and one English version for the top schools with the most entries among their pupils.

The contest organisers are the U.K.-based Effex group, distributors of Trill products. Entry forms are available at schools, but could also be obtained by writing to EP7 "The Great Trill Competition," P.O. Box 5989, Manama, Bahrain.

VILLA FOR RENT

Location: Jabal Luweibdeh, Al Gharbi (West), opposite the Police College behind the seven-storey Muta building. The villa is independent and built in the American style. It consists of two floors; the first has salons, kitchen and bathroom and the second consists of three bedrooms, a bathroom and a veranda; with a laundry room on the rooftop. The villa is centrally heated, has telephone and a garden.

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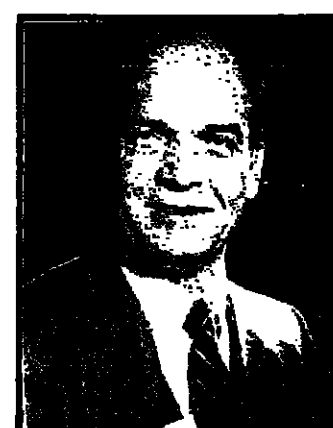
Portable office on wheels. Two offices 3.4mx3.8m, and sink compartment, price JD 4,000 (negotiable).

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JVA to spend JD 200m over coming five years

Haddadin outlines development projects in Jordan Valley

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) spent JD 150 million on projects in the Jordan Valley region during the past five year development plan and intends to spend some JD 200 million during the new 1986-90 development plan, JVA President Munther Haddadin announced here Monday.



Munther Haddadin

He said that projects implemented in the Jordan Valley, especially those connected with water and irrigation, were instrumental in making agriculture one of the pillars of the national economy. Progress in the agricultural sector has helped farmers meet domestic demands for produce and enabled them to export surpluses, which in turn bolstered the Jordanian balance of trade and helped to adjust the balance of payments, Dr. Haddadin continued.

Speaking to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, during a tour of a number of JVA projects, Dr. Haddadin said that the area of land in the Jordan Valley which could be developed through irrigation is estimated at half a million dunums. He said that 377,000 dunums for potential development are located between the Yarmouk River in the north and the Dead Sea, and 113,000 are located in the low-lying regions extending to the southern regions of the valley, in addition to 20,000 dunums at Wadi Araba, south of the Dead Sea. At present only 273,000 dunums are being exploited in all these regions, Dr. Haddadin said.

He said that the Jordan Valley receives water for irrigation from various streams, rivers and wadis which altogether hold around 520 million cubic metres of water annually.

Water pumping project

Perhaps one of the most important projects implemented in the past development plan was a water project that entailed pumping water from the Deir Alla area in the Jordan Valley to Amman, Salt and Zarqa. Dr. Haddadin pointed out. He said most of the stages of the project were completed in the summer of 1985 at a cost of JD 42.5 million. At present, he added, a water reservoir built at Daboun holds 55,000 cubic metres of water and this will be pumped to these population centres once the final stages have been completed.

According to Dr. Haddadin, once the project has been completed, nearly 45 million cubic metres of water will be pumped to these areas by six pumping stations through 1200 mm pipes climbing 350 metres of hilly areas from the Jordan Valley.

He said that the JVA is now implementing a project to raise the height of the King Talal Dam. He explained that the scheme is designed to make available additional amounts of water which will partly boost the irrigation of 160,000 dunums of Jordan Valley fields extending between Wadi Rajib in the north and Nour Al Deir in the south. The project to raise the dam wall is expected to cost JD 19 million, he added.

The past five-year plan, Dr. Haddadin pointed out, included water schemes for Irbid and Mafraq to ensure that both regions have sufficient supplies of drinking water over the coming few years.

This project, still under construction, entailed building a main water tower at Zibdeh Parkoub, which has capacity of 110,000 cubic metres of water, and installing three pumping stations and laying a 24 kilometre long pipe network. The whole project will be completed by March 1986 and is expected to cost JD 16 million, Dr. Haddadin said.

Wadi Al Arab Dam

The JVA started building a dam at Wadi Al Arab in 1981, and it is hoped that work on it will be completed by the end of 1985, the JVA president said. Once completed, the dam's reservoir will hold 20 million cubic metres of water of which six million will be exploited to irrigate some 12,500 dunums of land. Dr. Haddadin said. He continued that the JD 18-million dam was originally designed to hold 10 million cubic metres of water from Wadi Al Arab springs, but due to the delay in building Maqareen Dam on Yarmouk River, changes have been made to enable the reservoir to hold 20 million cubic metres and work has been going to raise the dam so that it can hold more water, especially over the winter.

Dr. Haddadin also said that last week saw the completion of the Wadi Al Arab irrigation project which is designed to provide water to 12,500 dunums at Baraka and north Shuneh.

At present, the JVA is involved in extending the East Ghor Canal by an additional 14.5 kilometres with the purpose of providing irrigation water to 60,000 dunums of land in the central region of the Jordan Valley. This project, he said, is expected to cost JD 11 million.

The JVA's new development plan is designed to further develop the Jordan Valley's economic and water resources and this will no doubt entail creating more jobs, Dr. Haddadin said. He added that eventually the whole region will be developed and that this would enable Jordan to export increasing amounts of agricultural products.

Seminar on Arab housing concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A 36-day seminar on designing and implementing housing projects in Arab countries ended at the Amra Hotel in Amman Monday. The seminar, which was organised by the Housing Corporation in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, was attended by 30 participants from housing ministries in 15 Arab countries.

The participants heard lectures and received practical training in subjects connected with surveys on social, economic and technical resources in a number of Arab countries and reviewed studies related to housing projects. They also had training in the use of aerial photos for the preparation of topographic maps and locating sites for housing projects in addition to ways of assessing feasibility studies for housing projects.

The participants made field trips to a number of housing projects and also visited the Jordan National Geographic Centre and tourist and archaeological sites. Towards the end of the closing session, representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Jordan Adnan Ra'ouf distributed diplomas to the participants in the presence of Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh and other invited guests.

Chinese delegation arrives to research regional issues

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from China's Institute of International Affairs arrived in Amman Monday on a two-week visit to Jordan. During the visit members of the delegation will meet with Jordanian officials to discuss the Middle East question and will hold talks on the issue with university professors and leading Jordanian personalities.

The Ministry of Information has worked out an integrated programme for the delegation members who will tour a number of Jordanian institutions concerned with regional issues. The aim of the visit is to enable the delegation to acquaint themselves with Jordan's views about world affairs in general and the Middle East situation in particular.

The delegation members were met at the airport by a number of Ministry of Information officials.

TENDER'S NOTICE

The Ministry of Education Projects Directorate announces the issuing of the following tenders which are financed by the British Government loan/fifth educational project:-

Tender No.	Title
1.	Lathes
2.	Drilling machines
3.	Welding machines & equipment
4.	Pedestal grinding machine
5.	Hacksawing machines
6.	Sheet metal machinery
7.	Woodworking machines
8.	Work benches
9.	Air compressors
10.	Hand tools, cutting tools, garage equipment & miscellaneous
11.	Electrical equipment
12.	Office furniture
13.	Building equipment
14.	Bollers
15.	Diesel fuel pump testing equipment
16.	Instrument test equipment
17.	Beekaping
18.	Milking equipment
19.	Glass greenhouses
25.	Electronic equipment
26.	Plastic greenhouses

All goods should be British origin. Interested bidders and agents are invited to collect tenders documents free of charge from the procurement division at the Directorate of Projects/Ministry of Education starting Oct. 5, 1985. Closing date will be 1.00 p.m. of Jan. 6, 1986.

Director of Projects

NEWS IN BRIEF

More ships dock at Aqaba this year

AMMAN (Petra) — The number of ships which docked at Aqaba Port since the beginning of this year until the end of August was 1,671 compared to 1,568 during the same period of last year, according to Ports Corporation sources. The sources added that a total of 240,300 passengers arrived via Aqaba Port since the beginning of this year until August compared with 240,625 passengers who arrived during the same period of last year. Also 132,949 passengers left Amman via the port since the beginning of this year until the end of August, compared to 111,646 passengers who departed via the Aqaba Port during the same period last year.

Irbid office issues 1,200 work permits

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Labour Department issued a total of 1,200 work permits to Arab and foreign labourers during September. The department's director, Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Shyoubk, said that the department's inspection teams made visits to 200 corporations and he added that legal measures were taken against companies and institutions violating the labour law. He said that, as a result of the inspection visits, 58 firms were fined and 38 warnings were issued.

Postal officials complete UPU course

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has participated in a postal training course for senior postal officials in Arab countries. The four-month course, which concluded recently in the Syrian capital of Damascus, qualified officials as postal experts to work for the Universal Postal Union (UPU). The officials will be sent on advisory missions to developing countries in Asia and Africa. The programme was organised by the UPU, the Arab Postal Union and the U.N. programme for technical aid.

Salt corporation gives land to ministry

SALT (Petra) — The Salt Development Corporation has donated a three-dunum piece of land in the Wadi Al Dalal area to the Ministry of Health. The corporation's director general, Mr. Fakhri Abu Taleb, said that the ministry will build an integrated health centre on the land.

POSITION OPENING IMMEDIATELY

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Is there a mirror in the house?

By Rami G. Khouri

WITH great patience and curiosity, I have read and re-read the statements issued by the White House after the Israeli attack on the Palestine Liberation Organisation offices in Tunis last week. I searched hard for a touch of humanity in the American position, but found little, either in the lines or in between them.

The thrust of the American position remains disconcertingly supportive of Israeli militarism. That, in itself is nothing new, of course, for we have lived with decades of American support of virtually anything that Israel does in the cause of its defence and security.

Only in the statements of Secretary of State George Shultz could one discern a hint of balance in condemning violence by both sides in the Arab-Israeli dispute, though Mr. Shultz is reported to have told Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir privately that Washington viewed the raid on Tunis as "legitimate self-defence against terrorism". The White House statements, however, and those of President Ronald Reagan himself, remain models of a brand of moral partnership that is guaranteed to perpetuate the violence, rather than to lessen it.

Just after the Israeli raid, President Reagan said that the Israeli raid was "legitimate self-defence", though a few days later White House statements down-

graded the American reaction slightly by calling the Israeli attack "understandable."

President Reagan tried in his weekly radio broadcast last Saturday to strike a bit more balance. He noted that he had watched "in shock and dismay" the recent attacks against Israeli civilians and the Israeli attack against PLO headquarters "in a country that is an old friend of the United States." If this is the fruits of friendship, who needs enemies?

There is an obvious attempt here by the United States to walk a fine line between the Arab and Israeli protagonists, but it is weak and unconvincing. The particular problem for the United States is that it remains unable to reconcile three main strands of its Middle East policy: its expressed policy of keeping Israel militarily stronger than any combination of neighbouring Arab states, its desire to maintain good relations with the moderate Arab states, and the Israeli habit of using American arms and other forms of assistance to strike hard at Arab targets, often in the same "moderate" Arab states whose friendship the United States professes to value.

The American abstention in the United Nations Security Council vote condemning the Israeli raid is rather novel in such cases, though its political meaning and value are diminished by what we hear about

the reason for the abstention. The United States abstained, we hear, because it thought that a veto of the resolution would provide Libya or other Arab quarters with much emotional ammunition which could be used to instigate demonstrations that might result in the overthrow of the Tunisian government. Such as motive, if true, would reveal much about the frailty of America's understanding of street sentiment in the Arab World.

The fact is that if Arabs are going to take to the streets and agitate against the established political order of the Arab World, it will not be because of how the United States votes on a Security Council resolution. One thinks that Arab folk are not so simplistic.

Rather, widespread grassroots Arab anger against the United States has been spawned by decades of imbalance in Washington's posture in the Middle East, of which its Security Council votes are just the tip of the iceberg. We — and it is irrelevant whether we are branded moderate, radical or even politically inert — continue to see United States policy in the area as being conditioned almost totally by Israeli perceptions and dictates. This, too, is nothing new. The latest cycle of attacks against Israelis, massive Israeli retaliation against PLO targets, American

moral tiptoeing among the debris and the bodies, and much hand-wringing by Arab officials repeat a pattern that has become all too familiar in recent decades. What, then, is new? Not much, with the possible exception of two developments.

The rise in attacks this year against Israelis in Israel and the occupied territories, should be recognised as a possible turning point in the Arab struggle against Israel. Surely, the occasional murder of an Israeli citizen, soldier or settler will not in itself resolve the conflict that pitted Palestinians against Zionists since the turn of the century. Rather, the new wave of Palestinian resistance should be seen for what it really is: an expression of Palestinian unwillingness to wait patiently and passively for external forces to resolve the twin problems of Palestinian disenfranchisement and Israeli occupation. The Palestinians under Israeli occupation who are turning to armed violence once again are themselves the tip of an Arab iceberg, and of a battered Arab psyche that will not forever remain politically humiliated, physically pacified and emotionally bludgeoned without fighting back. Reminds us a bit of what was happening in the American colonies in the mid-18th Century, no?

The likelihood is that Palestinian acts of resistance will continue and escalate, regardless of the heavy-handed policies that Israel applies. It is ironic, and historically instructive, that the rise in anti-Israeli attacks followed hot on the heels of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, for Israel proudly proclaimed to the world that it had destroyed the PLO's bases in Lebanon and reduced the organisation to political insignificance. Three years later, the PLO and Jordan are working closely together in the political arena. Palestinian attacks against Israelis are increasing, and two members of the PLO's executive committee have been invited to London for a chat. If this is political insignificance, perhaps the PLO should seek more of the same.

The other new factor is the attempt by Jordan and the PLO to make a fresh overture to the United States, aiming to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict through peaceful negotiations. That overture, based on the February 11 accord, is still on the table, but has yet to show a significant breakthrough in Washington. The United States has been offered a novel opportunity to achieve those goals that it has always professed to covet: to engage the Palestinians in a political dialogue, to foster Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, and to assure the legitimate rights of the Palestinians while guaranteeing Israel's existence in security and within recognised borders.

It remains for the Arab World to assess this historical fact with a measure of dispassion, realism and activism that has been sadly missing from Arab councils for a very long time. If it makes us feel better, then by all means let us unleash a barrage of vituperation against the American leadership, and a wave of scorn against Israel.

But when we have done all that, as we have done for many years now with little effect, let us look around and enquire, where are those amongst us who would hold up a mirror and ask: Who is the most docile of us all? And why? And for how much longer?

More arms; ethics no more

WHETHER or not the end justifies the means is a disputed ethical question. But for the war-mongers, arms merchants and their middlemen, moral imperatives would sound nonsense when it comes to the question of adopting any means to achieve their respective cherished ends.

For the war-mongering regime in Iran, the avowed aim is to continue the war with Iraq regardless of the cost to itself and the others. But Tehran's war-making capability is inherently inhibited by its heavy dependence for its arms supplies on the industrialised Western countries. These have refused to sell arms openly to Iran partly because of Tehran's adamant stance to fight it out rather than to negotiate a peaceful political settlement with Iraq and partly out of considerations for the international criticism that arms sales to Iran would bring. Hence, Iran has been adopting all kinds of questionable and shady means to procure weapons from the United States and Britain. The numberless surreptitious arms deals have been depleting the country's precious oil resources which would have been otherwise used for the welfare of the people of Iran.

For the arms merchants, the Gulf region has been a booming arms sellers' market over a decade. The Iran-Iraq war came as a boon for them and brought with it a great bonanza. After all, the arms business is a highly profitable enterprise and it thrives where belligerents are locked in uncompromising battle array. It has been the culture of the "merchants of death" to encourage conflicts in the developing regions of the world. Iran's obdurate stance of seeking a military solution to a political problem with Iraq is due in part to its confidence that it can rely on its assured covert sources of arms supplies.

Reports are apace that Israel acts as an agent par excellence in the Middle East between the arms sellers and Iran. And the case of the mystery IX-8 that landed at Tel Aviv airport on Sept. 15 is but the latest example of this Israeli-Iranian connection.

Three motivations lie behind Israel monopolising this all-exclusive agency. Firstly, the huge profits, derived by way of exorbitant commissions and resale of weapons to Iran, would help prop up Israel's sagging economy; secondly, colluding with the Tehran regime in its war efforts would act as a counter-measure in dampening the hostility of Khomeini's fundamentalist Shi'ite followers in South Lebanon who are a threat to Israel's security; and thirdly, a smouldering war would keep Iraq — one of the most formidable Arab confrontation states — weak and dispirited and busy with its own troubles, ignoring practically all pan-Arab concerns, particularly the struggle against Israel.

The two minds that once prevailed in Israel on the question of whether or not to continue supplying Iran with arms have now been reduced to one, it seems. The incident of the mysterious cargo plane proves yet again that the Liberal theory of keeping both Iran and Iraq at each other's throats remains the more popular in Israel.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A call for unity

THE PALESTINIAN martyrs, who fell in Tunis last Tuesday and who were buried in Amman Sunday, testify to the barbaric crimes of the Israeli terrorists. Their martyrdom stands out as a proof that Zionism is another form of terrorism and that the Israelis are no more than killers and criminals intent on slaughtering innocent people.

We take pride in our martyrs. We hope for serious efforts among the Arabs to lift the injustice and to end the occupation of our occupied territories and to end Israel's arrogance and acts of terror against our people.

We hope for a real action on the part of the Arab governments that would end all brutal actions against our people, and we want action that can ensure the return of justice and stability to our region.

We look forward towards victory over our common enemies, a victory that can put a final end to all the tragedies which our people have been plagued with.

The death of the martyrs should serve as an incentive for the Arab nation to rise once again in the face of Zionist terrorism and injustice and against Israel's crimes and its atrocities against our people.

Al Dustour: A long battle

THE JORDANIAN family received the bodies of the martyrs with pride and accorded them all forms of honour appropriate to their sacrifice. Those heroes who fell in Tunis were the victims of Israel's brutal crime against the Arabs.

The United Jordanian family in welcoming the 31 martyrs for burial in Amman manifested its cohesion and national unity, and the feelings of the people displayed a genuine affiliation to the one Arab nation, a nation that prides itself with men who have been struggling for freedom and for liberating their homeland.

This united family will always remember that these martyrs fell as a result of a brutal aggression, one that Israel has perpetrated and carried out on our nation with total disregard to our feelings, our rights and our land.

As we bury the dead we should remember that the battle is long and hard and that no matter how brutal and aggressive our enemies are, we should never capitulate.

Therefore, the falling of these martyrs should serve as an incentive for the rest of the Arabs to mobilise their resources and direct their struggle against the Zionist enemy to wrest our rights and our homeland.

As we bid the martyrs farewell we realise that many more like them will fall in the long struggle against Zionism, but we are more confident than ever that we will eventually come out victorious.

Sawt Al Shaab: Killing prompts killing

DESPITE EFFORTS on the part of Egypt and Israel to play down the killing of seven Israeli soldiers by an Egyptian policeman near the border, officials on both sides cannot help displaying their concern over the wave of hatred towards Israelis inside Egypt.

This hatred has been created in the hearts of the Egyptians due to Israel's criminal actions against the Arab nation inside as well as outside the occupied Arab lands.

The Egyptians seem to be completely dissatisfied with their separate peace treaty with Egypt, because they realise that that treaty has not achieved a comprehensive settlement that would ensure the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland.

Egypt also discovered that its separate accord with Israel did not bring about stability and security to the Middle East. The Egyptians, who now realise all of this, also know that the Israelis want to torpedo all efforts designed to achieve a lasting peace and for this purpose launched a raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis.

The killing of the seven Israelis was a natural reaction to the attack on Tunis despite the fact that both sides tried to minimise its effect on their bilateral relations. The more aggressive Israel becomes, the more it will be exposed to such retaliatory attacks.

Family of ailing Palestinian detainee requests his release

THE FAMILY of Khair Al Din Barham, from Nablus, appealed to international and human rights organisations to intervene on behalf of their father Khair Al Din, 55, who is currently being held under administrative detention.

The family pleaded for his prompt release in order to receive immediate medical treatment. The Barham's appeal to the Israelis fell on deaf ears. Like the rest of Palestinian administrative detainees, Barham has not been charged with any crime or put on trial.

According to Khair Al Din's son, Omar, his father suffers from

a heart ailment, a chronic intestinal infection and a slipped disc. He said his father was supposed to enter the hospital for intensive medical care but his arrest on August 28 delayed his treatment.

Khair Al Din, a father of eight, served a three-year prison term in 1969. According to his family his health deteriorated during his imprisonment. He is a self-employed merchant in Nablus. His family complained that Khair Al Din has done nothing to warrant placing him in administrative detention — Al Fajr, Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly.

Gorbachev pitch to Europeans leaves open deal with Reagan

By Paul Taylor
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new arms control proposals seem aimed at softening up Washington's West European allies without closing the door to a deal with President Reagan. NATO analysts say.

Gorbachev's bold call during a four-day visit to France last week for a 50 per cent cut in strategic nuclear arms, tied to a ban on space weapons, grabbed Western headlines and put Reagan under big pressure before their vital summit in Geneva next month.

On both scores Gorbachev can claim a large measure of success, aided to some extent by the absence of a comparably striking response from Washington.

A key feature of Gorbachev's "operation seduction", as the French press dubbed it, was his flattery of Western Europe.

He offered a political dialogue with the European Community, which the Kremlin previously refused to recognise, and separate talks with Britain and France on their independent nuclear forces, which it had previously lumped together with America's.

He also said Moscow was reducing the number of its SS-20 missiles aimed at Europe — a clear attempt to sway next month's Dutch decision on deploying U.S. Cruise missiles.

While playing this "European card", the Soviet leader was careful to leave open the chance of an agreement with America.

His proposals seemed aimed less at driving the United States out of Europe, a long-standing Western charge, than at forcing Western European leaders to exert pressure on Reagan to compromise.

In this he was not wholly successful, although several allied leaders did appeal to Washington for a constructive response.

But President Francois Mitterrand flatly rejected talks on France's atomic arsenal and refused to be drawn into a joint condemnation of Reagan's programme for a space-based nuclear defence, despite his misgivings about the U.S. Strategic Defence



Mikhail Gorbachev

Initiative (SDI), known popularly as "Star Wars".

The Dutch said the alleged SS-20 reduction was not enough to make them renounce Cruise deployment.

Britain's response was only slightly less dismissive. Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe said the superpowers would have to make substantial cuts in their nuclear stockpiles before Britain would consider engaging in negotiations.

NATO analysts said among the least acceptable of Gorbachev's proposals was his approach on medium-range nuclear missiles.

He defined U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles as strategic, and therefore subject to the 50 per cent cut, while exempting Moscow's triple-warhead SS-20s on the grounds that they could not hit the United States.

"That's wholly unacceptable and the Europeans see that," a West European diplomat said.

Analysts said Moscow had eventually accepted the Western definition of strategic weapons by range in previous arms negotiations and would probably do so again this time.

Belgian Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans said there were apparent inconsistencies between what Gorbachev had said in public and what had been put on the table in Geneva.

A NATO diplomat familiar with the talks said the Kremlin leader had deliberately avoided publicising some of the more blatantly one-sided features of Moscow's formal proposals.



Israeli authorities return the remains of a Palestinian fighter after 9 years

THE ISRAELI military handed over the remains of Khalil Abdallah Mustafa Awawdeh to his family September 3, who was immediately reburied in his village according to Islamic tradition. Awawdeh, from Dura (population 15,000) in the Hebron district, was killed November 8, 1976, during an armed clash with Israeli soldiers in the Hebron hills. His body has been kept in a secret cemetery since then.

The body was handed over nearly four months after the Israeli High Court turned down an appeal to allow the family to open the coffin and inspect the remains, an action the authorities have been resisting.

Awawdeh is the third case in which the remains of Palestinian

commandos have been returned to their families to be reburied in their birthplace. The first two were Abdul Aziz Rajoub and Ibrahim Khalid Salim, both from the Hebron district. Rajoub was killed May 29, 1972, during a hijacking attempt of a Belgian airliner to Lydda airport and Salim was killed in the same battle as Awawdeh. Rajoub's remains were returned to his family in March and Salim's in April.

The bodies had been kept in a closed military area in an undisclosed location in the Jordan Valley. An agreement for their return was reached earlier this year between the dead commandos' families and the Israeli military government in the West Bank. The families were represented by attorney Mazen Jubti of Jerusalem. The military, however, did not agree to return the bodies without strict conditions. These included not opening the coffin; no one other than military personnel being present during the exhuming of the bodies; no nationalistic burial celebration being held; no more than 60 persons closely related to the deceased attending the reburial ceremonies which should take place at night; and the coffin not being wrapped with a Palestinian flag. The military also has the freedom to decide when and where to return the bodies and to give the family no more than 24 hours notice before it hands over the remains.

Rajoub's and Salim's families

agreed to all the conditions and got the remains of their sons early in the year. The Awawdeh family, however, demanded to be allowed, at least open the coffin to make sure the remains belonged to their dead son. When the military refused, the Awawdeh family took their case to the High Court which on May 12 upheld the military's conditions. The Dura family conceded.

Awawdeh's remains were reburied after midnight September 3 under heavy military guard. Only close family members were present. Awawdeh was born in 1937. He was survived by his wife and 10 children — six boys and four girls. He joined the Fatah guerrilla movement in 1968 — Al Fajr, Jerusalem Palestinian Weekly.

Time running out on Reagan's hope to reshape Supreme Court with conservatism

By James Vicini
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's chance to fulfil a conservative dream by reshaping the U.S. Supreme Court in recent years has decided such fundamental matters as death penalty standards, abortion rights, school prayer and racial and sexual equality disputes.

Although Reagan loyalists hoped the court under conservative Chief Justice Warren Burger would overturn some liberal rulings of the 1950s and 60s, it has opposed such administration social policy goals as restoring prayer in public schools, outlawing abortion and weakening "affirmative action" programmes to help minorities and women.

Just before it recessed for the summer, for instance, the court struck down an Alabama law permitting school prayer.

The justices have generally sided with Reagan on law and order issues, relaxing rules that prohibited police from using illegally obtained evidence and requiring them to inform a suspect of his right to remain silent and to have a lawyer.

But this is scant solace to disappointed conservatives.

They have always assumed Reagan's power to appoint Supreme Court justices would prove his greatest lasting legacy and the key to achieving social policy reforms shunned by Congress.

His only appointment opportunity to date came in 1981, his first year in office, when he named conservative Sandra O'Connor as

the first woman U.S. Supreme Court justice.

"It was a natural expectation that over eight years we would have more appointments" in view of the age and service longevity of the current group, said Terry Eastland, a Justice Department spokesman who closely follows the Supreme Court.

While Reagan's second and last White House term runs until January 1989, Eastland said he had less than three years to reshape the court in practice since it would be difficult to make changes in the 1988 presidential election year.

The Senate must confirm Supreme Court nominees. Despite its gradual shift to the right compared with the liberal court of earlier decades, the court still remains divided between four moderate-liberals and four conservatives with Lewis Powell, 78, providing a swing vote.

To shift the balance decisively to the right, Reagan must replace at least two of the liberals: William Brennan, 79, Thurgood Marshall, 77, John Paul Stevens, 65, and Blackmun.

The conservatives are Chief Justice Burger, 78, O'Connor 55, William Rehnquist, 60, and Byron White, 68.

Burger has made clear his intention to stay on the bench to preside over the bicentennial celebration of the U.S. constitution in 1987.

Brennan, the oldest justice, appointed to the bench nearly 30 years ago by President Dwight

Eisenhower, continues to play an active role as the master strategist for the liberals.

Powell missed arguments in about one-third of the cases last term after surgery for prostate cancer, but appears to have fully recovered and will be on hand for the 1985-86 term.

Longevity is a tradition at the high court, where 34 of the 102 justices appointed since the late 18th century have remained active past their 75th birthdays.

"The chances for Reagan to reshape the court are becoming increasingly small," said Charles Sims, national staff counsel for the ultra-liberal American Civil Liberties Union.

Legal experts agree major changes must come relatively soon, even if not in Reagan's era. "The aging of the justices signals a potential constitutional revolution in the making," Harvard University law professor Laurence Tribe says in his new book, "God Save This Honorable Court."

"Almost inevitably a bench filled with older justices leads to a spate of appointments that can radically reshape the court."

If openings do occur under Reagan, the leading candidates for nomination are reported to include Robert Bork, Antonin Scalia and Richard Posner, all U.S. Appeals Court judges who share his conservative view that courts should only interpret the constitution and not make new law.

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Reduced oil revenues put a squeeze on Libya's economy

By Gerald F. Selb
Wall Street Journal

TRIPOLI, Libya — Day after day, motorists have been watching a strange drama unfold on Jaraba Street here. A hundred or so ragged-looking men have drifted in and set up camp in a trash-strewn lot next to the Embassy of Mali.

Most of them stretch out under makeshift tents formed by blankets draped over wires. Some doze on the sidewalk or eat rice cooked over propane fires.

These men are labourers from Mali and Libya who have told them they have to quit their jobs here and leave the country. They are waiting at the embassy while the frazzled Mali ambassador tries to arrange special flights home. The labourers are among an estimated 50,000 foreign workers, most from Egypt and Tunisia, who have been ordered to leave Libya in the past few weeks.

Libya insists that economic difficulties haven't forced the expulsions. But diplomats and businessmen here say that the dismissals are another sign that slumping oil prices are affecting nearly every aspect of life in Libya. The economic problems aren't serious enough to force Libya's chief, Muammar Qadhafi, to fundamentally change his radical ways. But they are causing domestic grumbling, and compelling Mr. Qadhafi to cut back on his big military expenditures, a move that could aggravate existing tensions with the army. Indeed, there have been persistent rumours that army officers were involved in an assassination attempt and a coup attempt in the past month.

Economic difficulties are also likely to curb Mr. Qadhafi's ability to spread his unique brand of socialist, anti-U.S. revolution. "Libyan oil income has been reduced dramatically in the last two to three years," says a Western diplomat here. "That suggests the manoeuvring space Qadhafi has to support liberation movements world-wide has been reduced just as dramatically."

Libya's oil income has dropped to \$8 billion annually from \$22 billion five years ago. The country owes an estimated \$8 billion to foreign companies and countries,

counting its military debts, and businessmen often wait months for payments.

Rare marlboros

Tripoli residents stand in line for bread because the Tunisians who used to bake it have been sent home. The nation's budget for consumer-goods imports has been cut 25 per cent. Meat is hard to find many days, and a carton of Marlboro cigarettes is so rare that it can fetch up to \$70 on the black market, residents here say.

Typically, Mr. Qadhafi has found a way to take advantage of the economic problems. The plan to dismiss many unskilled foreign workers, though approved more than a year ago by the General People's Congress, was implemented abruptly in late summer in the apparent hope that a big influx of returning workers would create internal troubles for Egypt and Tunisia. Libya's main adversaries in North Africa. The expulsions have heightened tensions along Libya's border with Tunisia. Some Libyan troops have moved to the area, and Tunisia has broken diplomatic relations with Tripoli.

Mr. Qadhafi also is trying to use the economic strains to toughen up a Libyan population that he thinks went soft during the easy years of the oil boom. He bluntly tells Libyans that they have to work harder and produce for themselves so Libya won't be vulnerable to economic pressure from outside enemies — particularly the U.S.

'The wrong direction'

"Flooding the market with imported goods means we are going in the wrong direction, and it exhausts our reserves of foreign currency," he said in a recent televised speech.

Lower-ranking officials, though, are reluctant to acknowledge that Libya is feeling any discomfort. Mohammed Sharfedin, the government's principal spokesman, insists that Libya doesn't feel any effects from its \$10 billion drop in annual oil income because its economy has expanded in some non-oil areas. He says foreign workers were sent

home because Libyans wanted to stop aiding "stooges of the U.S.," such as Egypt and Tunisia, by giving jobs to their workers. Instead, he said, Libyans want to start "depending on ourselves."

The current economic pinch certainly doesn't mean that Libya is going broke. Its \$8 billion in annual oil income is a lot of money for a country with only about 3.5 million people. In headier times, Mr. Qadhafi wisely used oil money to finish thousands of new, East bloc-style apartments that now stand in bright bunches along Tripoli's otherwise drab and littered streets. By all accounts, the road system and health care have improved greatly since Mr. Qadhafi, as a 27-year-old army colonel, led a coup that overthrew King Idris in 1969.

Economic problems also haven't undermined the personality cult that Mr. Qadhafi carefully cultivates. Libyan youngsters are schooled in Qadhafi-style rhetoric from a young age. At age 10 or so, many join the Baram Al Fateh, or "Buds of the Revolution," a Libyan version of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. The organisation held a festival one night recently in Tripoli, and the green-clad youngsters waved clenched fists as they sang songs about liberating Palestine and defeating the U.S., and about their "leader who can't fail."

Mr. Qadhafi still spews out threats to smash his neighbours and numerous enemies. He has threatened to "punish" Arab leaders for visiting Washington. And in a recent speech to young soldiers, he told Libyans that they must "drink the blood of the Zionist and American enemies and their reactionary followers."

Some Libyan intellectuals are tired of Mr. Qadhafi's rhetoric. But Mr. Qadhafi's uncompromising style is still a source of pride to many Libyans. Mohammed, a young bus driver from the coastal city of Sur, says he also admires Mr. Qadhafi because "he doesn't build palaces for himself like King Fahd" of Saudi Arabia.

Still, everyone can feel the drop in oil revenue, particularly because Libya's debts and military commitments chew up a big chunk of the remaining income before it

over reaches the general population.

Libya's oil-production quota under the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries is 990,000 barrels a day, but Western analysts estimate that Libya probably is producing about 1.1 million barrels daily. Diplomats here think that as many as 400,000 of those barrels are shipped to foreign countries and companies to pay off Libya's bills. Much of this bartered oil pays for social and industrial projects in Libya, but diplomats say that 140,000 to 240,000 barrels probably go to the Soviet Union daily to pay military debts.

An additional \$1 billion in oil revenue goes for other military expenditures, an analyst estimates. And a big chunk goes for payments on Libya's new \$3.6-billion project to lay nearly a thousand miles of concrete pipe to carry water from wells under the Sahara to Libya's coast. On top of that, some \$1 billion has been shipped out of the country annually by 400,000 or so foreign workers.

Smelter, fertilizer plant

To meet its commitments, Libya has been using its cash reserves. Foreign diplomats estimate that Libya's reserve of hard currency has fallen to \$2.6 billion from \$3.6 billion at the start of the year and \$14 billion four years ago. Apparently because of the decline, Libya has slowed some big industrial projects that were to have been the highlight of its internal development in the mid-1980s. Construction of a fertilizer plant and a big aluminium smelter has been put off, and diplomats say that work at a big steel mill has been thrown off track because a South Korean company has quit working until its bills are paid.

A Turkish company, Enka, has been waiting more than a year for a down payment on a contract it signed to build a "new city" near Libya's coast, diplomats say. And an official at Delma S.p.A., an Italian construction firm, says that his company has bid on 45 projects advertised by Libya since the beginning of 1984 but that Libya hasn't picked a bidder or started work on any of them.

The combination of import curbs and the dismissal of foreign workers also has produced periodic shortages of some basic commodities. Groceries generally are cheap in Libya because of government subsidies, but now there is occasional panic buying when scarce goods are available. On a recent afternoon at a big government-owned store called the Souk Al Jomah, for instance, customers rushed to a bin when a shipment of fresh milk came in, and most stuffed five or six cartons into their shopping bags. The milk was gone in a few minutes.

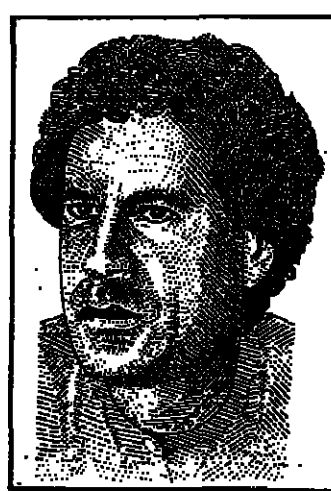
Even if unhappiness were to grow, though, the only serious challenge to Mr. Qadhafi's authority could come from Libya's army. Economic problems are hitting there, too. Early this year, Libya's chief of staff distributed an internal memo ordering the cancellation of 33 military construction projects valued at more than \$700 million. The army reportedly already was unhappy about the growing power of so-called revolutionary committees of Qadhafi disciples who have been set up in offices and neighbourhoods to ensure adherence to his policies.

In addition, military men apparently are angry over Mr. Qadhafi's plan to move the army's general staff to a remote new city called Jofrah that he is having built in the desert. The Libyan leader dreams of making the desert city Libya's new capital someday — though Western diplomats suspect that he also would like to get the army command out of Tripoli to reduce the chances that it will organise an insurrection there.

There was a spate of rumours early last month of a coup attempt by army officers, and Egyptian press reports asserted that some Libyan soldiers tried to shoot Mr. Qadhafi a few weeks ago. Many diplomats in Tripoli think that the absence of the usual military parade at the annual celebration of the anniversary of the Sept. 1 revolution was a sign of tension between Mr. Qadhafi and his military leaders.

A coup-proof system

But no indications of unusual



Muammar Qadhafi

tension or security were spotted during this reporter's 10-day visit to Libya last month.

And some Arab and Western officials think Mr. Qadhafi may have constructed a coup-proof system in Libya by injecting loyal revolutionary committees and friendly military officers throughout the military and civilian system. Mr. Sharfedin, the government spokesman, dismisses the rumours of a recent coup attempt as "laughable."

Most analysts suspect that Mr. Qadhafi will continue to look for ways to subvert neighbours whenever they look vulnerable. He seems to be positioning himself to make inroads in Tunisia when the country's elderly president, Habib Bourguiba, dies.

But Mr. Qadhafi clearly has less money to throw around, either to support like-minded revolutionaries in neighbouring countries or to secure the loyalty of recently acquired friends such as Morocco and Sudan. Those two countries recently have patched up relations with Libya, and Mr. Qadhafi has promised financial aid and an end to his support for rebel movements in both nations.

He appears to have lived up to his promise to sever aid to the rebel groups, but diplomats don't think he is providing much aid to the Moroccan and Sudanese governments. "Everyone in Africa knows that when Libya makes a promise it isn't going to be fulfilled — and especially now because of these economic difficulties," says a Western diplomat here.

Former pop star leads campaign for Islamic schools

By Nassir Shirkhani
Reuters

LONDON — Cat Stevens, who turned his back on the glittering world of rock music to become a Muslim, is at the forefront of a campaign to bring Islamic schools to Britain.

And the one-time singer, who now goes by the name Yusuf Islam, is within sight of fulfilling a five-year-old dream.

Pending a study of the curriculum, education officials in the north London district of Brent have promised government funding for a tiny private school he runs along Islamic lines.

One of Britain's most successful singer-songwriters of the early 1970s, 38-year-old Stevens had eight gold albums in a row, including *Tea For The Tillerman* and *Teaser And The Firecat*.

But in 1977 he hung up his guitar and turned his back on Roman Catholicism, the religion into which he was born, in favour of a modest life and a Muslim prayer mat.

Today, he is the inspiration of many British Muslims striving towards a religious system of learning.

"Muslims by definition have to educate themselves according to the principles of Islam," he told Reuters in an interview at his Islamic primary school. "Children need to identify with a moral code and we sympathise with those parents who want their children to be brought up within a religious dictum."

Islam was born Steven Georgiou in London, the son of a Greek father and a Swedish mother.

His first hit single, *I Love My Dog*, came in 1966, and for more than 10 years — except for 1968, when he was struck by tuberculosis — he turned out a profusion of ballads, lyrical love songs, and up-beat numbers.

But he became disillusioned. In 1977, he converted to Islam. Four years later, he declared he was no longer seeking applause and fame and he auctioned his gold records and other belongings.

The conversion has transformed him both spiritually and physically. He now has all the trappings of a devout Muslim, a long black beard and an ankle-length robe.

He and his Turkish wife Fawzia have three daughters under the age of six.

The singer of Morning Has

Broken and Matthew and Son, who once had millions of fans, now humbles himself to Allah at dawn every day.

He then devotes himself to teaching and to tackling the mounting demands from Muslims for religious education. There is no state-funded Islamic school for Britain's one-million-strong Muslim community, the biggest religious minority in the country.

The Islamic school opened three years ago with 13 children. It now has 70 pupils, both boys and girls, and a waiting list of 500. Islam says more and more parents are asking to send their children to Islamic schools.

All the pupils wear modest clothes, although there is no pressure on girls to observe the strict Islamic code of dress. There is no pressure for a segregated primary school. "Up to the age of puberty there is no problem," Islam said.

The curriculum concentrates on non-religious matters to avoid charges that precedence for religious subjects would put learners at a disadvantage when seeking jobs.

Islam says his school is job-orientated, equipping pupils academically to meet the needs of a fast-changing society.

Despite the emphasis on science and the relative tolerance on dress, three things are discouraged: Shorts, mini-skirts and the theories of Charles Darwin.

Although pupils are briefed on Darwin's theories on evolution, they are told not to accept them as facts. Islam says Darwin's model is wrong "because... it is to exclude God, it is to exclude belief in the Creator."

Education officials in north London are considering giving the school "voluntary-aided status."

Under the provision, from which many Christian and Jewish schools benefit, the local education authority pays the staff and 85 per cent of the capital costs. The sponsoring church, synagogue or mosque has a majority on the governing boards, and consequent control over curriculum and staff appointments.

A final study of Islam's school, made by the local authority at the end of August, has been sent to the department of education for a decision.

The Islamic school at present draws its funds from fees and donations. Islam, who became a millionaire as a pop star, subsidises it heavily.

India—poisoned water, dead fields

India's major rivers are heavily polluted by sewage, oil, heavy metals and other industrial wastes. Crops are dying because their irrigation water is poisoned, and the water is a threat to human health. K. Gopalakrishnan is a journalist with the *Hindustan Times* in Delhi. The research on which this article is based was carried out with the assistance of an Earthscan fellowship.

By K. Gopalakrishnan

BARAUNI, India — Cereal crops in the villages around this industrial township in Bihar state have died suddenly before they could be harvested. The killer was irrigation water poisoned at its source — the holy river Ganga.

More than 120 hectares of crops were ruined last summer, when agitating farmers demanded and got compensation for their loss from three major sources of river pollution — an oil refinery, a fertilizer factory and a thermal power plant, all government-owned.

This incident went unreported in the national media, and today it is difficult to tell how many more instances of this type of damage may have been occurring. It is not confined to one town, but extends along the entire 2,500 kilometre course of the Ganga (also known as the Ganges) from Hardwar in the Himalayan foothills to Calcutta, where it enters the sea.

Maize leaves are burnt by the high concentration of nitrogen in the water, as well as by ammonia in the air. Cauliflowers and potatoes develop black pock-marks.

"The situation is alarming," says professor A.K. Srivastava of the Rajendra Prasad Agriculture University in Bihar state. From

Patna, the state capital, to Barauni, the presence of toxic heavy metals in the Ganga has interfered with normal plant metabolism. The crisis recurs each year, as annual floods recede, leaving the toxic effluents in the soil.

The situation is not as bad as it could be because the Ganga is a fast moving river. "But if the present inflow of pollutants continues, we will have a catastrophe within 60 years," professor Srivastava predicts.

The oil discharge from the Barauni refinery is so excessive that a decade ago a two-kilometre stretch of the Ganga caught fire. The fire lasted 16 hours, destroying crops along the banks. Fish died in the inferno, and the fish population has not yet returned to normal levels.

A government enquiry into the incident blamed the oil refinery, as petroleum effluents were being discharged untreated. Since then a treatment plant has been installed at the refinery, but the residents of Barauni complain that the factory waste is as inflammable as ever.

At Hardwar early last year, the greasy discharge from an electrical plant set ablaze a half-kilometre stretch of the river. Flames up to five metres high destroyed mango groves and other vegetation. The

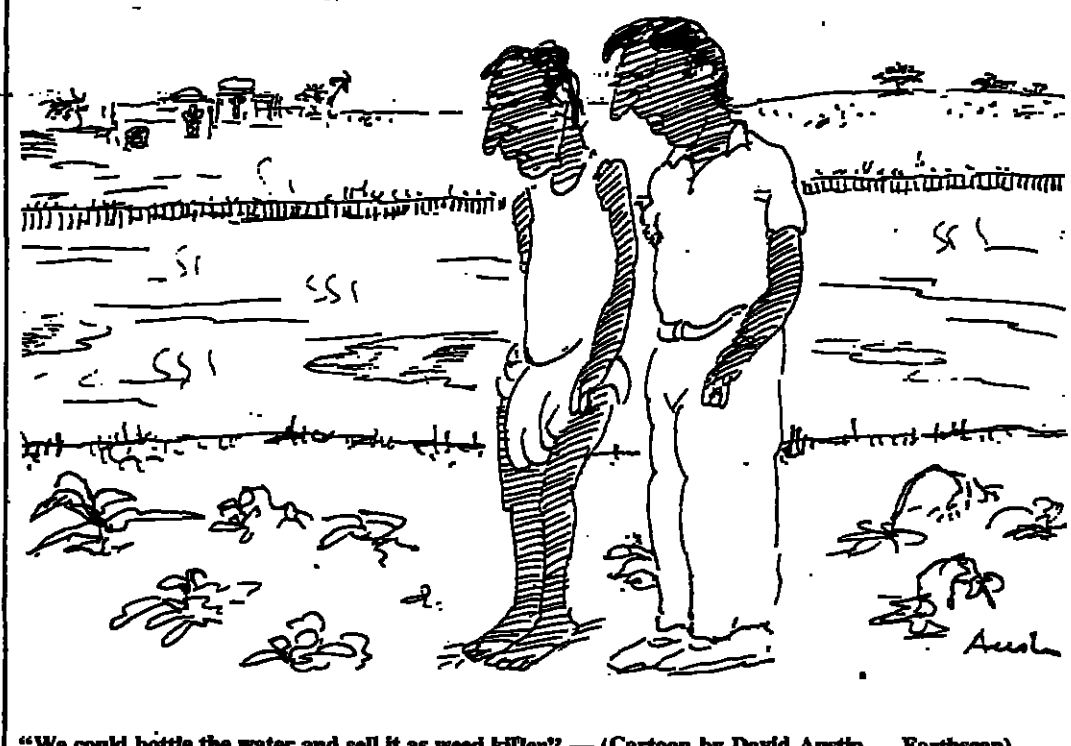
fire was put out with tonnes of sand and huge quantities of carbon monoxide gas.

In Calcutta and Patna, untreated city sewage is used for irrigation, instead of being drained into the river as is the practice elsewhere. Farmers say that the vegetable output has risen sharply. Potatoes grow to weigh a kilogramme each, and a single cauliflower is too big for a family meal.

In Varanasi, untreated sewage was once pumped up to the fields and sold to the farmers. Villagers paid a per hectare irrigation charge, but the demand for the sewage water was so great that farmers who were not getting any broke the sewage line to divert the water to their fields.

"The sewage was both water and good manure, and farmers found it very convenient," says professor S.N. Narayanaswamy of the Benares Hindu University. But people had to be warned to wash the contaminated vegetables thoroughly. The National Environmental Engineering Research Institute has also reported that the worm cysts on these sewage-irrigated vegetables do not die even after they are cooked.

There are other problems. Ram Narain Yadav, who operated the sewage pumps, recalls that sugar cane grown with sewage tasted salty, and it could not be used for making sugar crystals. Instead, a cheap liquid sweetener called "rab" was made. Dr. Mahatma Singh, director of agricultural sci-



"We could bottle the water and sell it as weed killer" — (Cartoon by David Austin — Earthscan)

ences at the Benares Hindu University, says that the strong presence of sodium in the water prevents the intake of potassium into the cane crop. Without potassium, sugar crystals are not formed.

The Ganga is not India's only polluted river. Almost all the major rivers and their tributaries carry an overload of urban and industrial wastes. Though no one really knows the extent of the pol-

lution, the Indian government has recently initiated a major programme to clean up the country's river systems.

First to be tackled will be the Ganga, for which a \$250 million Development Authority has been specially created. It is hoped that clearing up the Ganga and other rivers will have far-reaching indirect economic benefits. One study shows that India's sewage

could be treated and still irrigate 200,000 hectares of cropland.

In the past, there have been many sporadic and isolated campaigns which have failed to clean up the Ganga. The latest programme may work better, because responsibility has been handed to a single agency. And the situation is so urgent that the political will to improve matters seem to be strong — Earthscan.

Hunt for whales goes on despite moratorium

By Elizabeth Kenf

LONDON — Whaling nations — and non-whaling nations who want the hunting stopped — cannot agree on how to enforce a commercial whaling moratorium due to begin this fall.

When the International Whaling Commission (IWC) recently ended its 37th annual meeting in Bournemouth, U.K., it was clear that whales would continue to be harpooned — both by nations which will ignore the moratorium and by nations which will hunt whales in the name of "science."

Conservationists were outraged over Iceland and South Korea's plans to circumvent the IWC's 1982 ruling by killing 200 whales each per year for so-called scientific purposes. "Research whaling", conducted on a sufficiently large scale, would keep whaling fleets going through the moratorium period.

Sir Peter Scott, honorary chairman of the World Wildlife Fund's International Council, who has attended IWC meetings for nearly 20 years, denounced the scheme: "The pretext of research whaling by Iceland and Korea is a

blatant subterfuge. It threatens to undermine the moratorium."

Scientists have dissected more than a million whale carcasses worldwide so far this century, and most scientists believe that there is now enough knowledge on the general biology of whales. Members of the IWC Scientific Committee said that killing whales for scientific reasons would yield no useful additional information. Such hunting is permitted under IWC rules, but a number of IWC member states expressed concern over abuse of the regulations.

China chastised South Korea for its plans to take whales from a stock classified as protected by IWC: "Our neighbours should be aware that minke whales have been severely depleted in the East China Sea and we do not agree with whaling under the cover of scientific research."

Switzerland and Sweden proposed to curb Iceland and South Korea's plans to continue research whaling, calling for an embargo on international trade in the products derived from whales so killed. The IWC set up a group to study the issue.

U.S. conservation organisations

are putting pressure on their government to impose economic sanctions on Japan if it imports whale meat killed under the guise of research.

Japan, which plans to ignore the moratorium, trades in whale meat with all commercial whaling countries. The country's western Pacific sperm whale has been classified as protected stock as of 1988, but the IWC Scientific Committee is due to review the position before that time.

A stock, or specific population of a given whale species, normally becomes "protected" when it falls to below 5.4 per cent of its "original" level. Earlier this year Japan signed an agreement with the U.S. which permits the Japanese to continue sperm whaling until 1988 without the threat of economic sanctions. U.S. law allows the imposition of such sanctions on any country which compromises an international agreement.

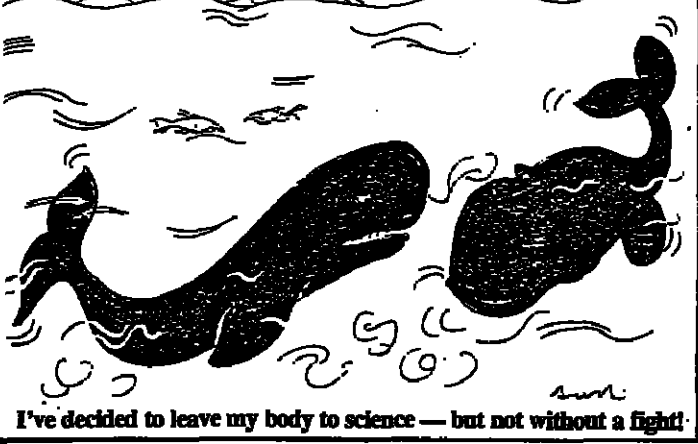
Conservationists welcomed plans by Japan and the Soviet Union to stop Antarctic minke whaling by 1987, but are urging both countries to comply with a full moratorium by the end of this

year. The USSR, Japan and Norway are the only countries which have not withdrawn their objections to the IWC moratorium.

The USSR engages in no commercial whaling besides the Antarctic minke hunt, but declined to withdraw its objections to the moratorium after the United States imposed fishing sanctions against the Soviet Union in April which cost the USSR 22,000 tonnes of fish worth \$10 million. The USSR has also protested that there are no scientific reasons for the moratorium.

During the Bournemouth meeting, Norway came under strong pressure to dismantle its whaling fleet. Norway's stock of northeast Atlantic minke whales, which has been in a state of decline for a number of years, was classified as an IWC protected stock. Twenty-five IWC nations voted in favour of protecting the stock; only Iceland voted against, and 10 countries abstained. Norway refused to participate in the vote.

In a statement from Oslo, Mr. Kaare Kristiansen, acting Norwegian prime minister, made it clear that Norway was worried about the effect of possible trade



I've decided to leave my body to science — but not without a fight!

sanctions against Norwegian fish exports, should the country continue whaling.

"The situation has changed since the IWC meetings. I understand very well our Ministry of Commerce's wish to protect the whales, so that whaling does not damage our fish exports. Even if the Norwegian scientists eventually find that minke whaling can be continued," he added, "I am not sure that this would be wise in the light of the possible repercussions."

One of the most controversial

decisions taken by the IWC will allow Alaskan Inuit Indians an increase in their annual quota of bowhead whales. Although the bowhead population which passes through the Bering Sea is seriously depleted, the U.S. asked for an increase of eight whales. After long debate behind closed doors and special appeal by the chairman of the Alaskan Whaling Commission, the IWC agreed to a three-year block quota of 26 whales per year, with no more than 32 strikes (whales injured but not killed) per year — Earthscan feature.

The Turkish experience: Women face entrenched attitudes

By Selda Ulucanlar
Reuters

ANKARA — Turkey prides itself on the relative freedom its women have, but entrenched attitudes mean the vast majority are still regarded as second-class citizens, despite 50 years of universal suffrage.

This is unlikely to change soon, according to the small, educated minority of the country's women. There are women doctors and lawyers in big towns but the higher echelons of the civil service and government remain largely a male preserve.

Turkey has had only two women cabinet ministers. And women deputies — 12 in the present 400-seat parliament — have little influence as shown by what happened to bills introduced by two of them last December.

One bill which would have made men liable to prosecution for adultery was quashed by an all-male committee. At present, women can be jailed for up to three years, while men are imprisoned only for effective cohabitation.

Discussion of another bill seeking child nurseries at work places with more than 50 women is still in committee stage.

Female factory workers remain unskilled and immobile with low wages, while men receive training, says the trades Union Confederation.

The great majority of women work in agriculture — six out of seven million economically active women in the 1980 census.

Much agricultural work in the fields is carried out with the free labour of women.

In remote Anatolian villages, girls are habitually kept away from school. Turkey has eight million illiterate women to four million men.

Birth rates are high as contraception is considered sinful. Two million women out of 15 million of child-bearing age in 1980

had had between five and nine children, and 50,000 illiterate women had suffered at least one child death.

Polygamy, although illegal, is widely practised in the countryside. Men whose wives are unable to produce a son marry again at unrecognised religious ceremonies.

Turkey's civil code, adapted from the Swiss code in 1926, leaves no doubt where women stand: "Head of the union is the husband... the wife looks after the home... she may take a job or engage in an art with the permission of the husband."

Mustafa Kamal Atatürk made modern Turkey a secular state in the 1920s and 30s, but even today strong traditions colour how women are regarded.

Until recently, the use of headscarves, the traditional Turkish way of observing the Islamic requirement that women's heads be covered, was banned at universities in the name of secularism. This was reversed after considerable public debate.

Similarly, schoolgirls who took part in this year's youth day celebrations were told to wear Bermuda shorts below the knee.

Any expression by women of their sexual identity is frowned upon. Virginity is a must for new brides and if it cannot be proved, women are often divorced instantly and sometimes stabbed by an enraged husband or brother.

Yet, the silent majority of women seem to have accepted their fate. "Nature has created woman as a second-class human being," said the head of the Federation of Women's Associations, Aysel Göksoy, in a newspaper interview last year.

Even members of the "Women's Circle", Turkey's first ever feminist group, say they cannot attempt what they see as the daunting task of reaching the masses, and instead distribute literature among the rich and educated.

Koreas meet to settle dispute over 1988 Games

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — Olympic officials from North and South Korea will meet here Tuesday in an effort to settle their differences over the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, for which the North wants to be co-host along with the South.

It will be the first such direct encounter between the national Olympic committees of the two countries, which do not have diplomatic relations.

The president of the North Korean Olympic Committee, Kim Yu Sun, has said that during the two-day session at the Lausanne headquarters of the International Olympic Committee he would formally propose a joint North-South Korea bid for the Games.

South Korea has already rejected the North's proposal that the games be staged in both capitals as unreasonable, despite backing recently given to the idea by the Soviet Union.

But it has not ruled out the possibility of holding some preliminary events in the North.

Kim indicated that at Lausanne the North would be prepared to listen to proposals by the South or by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, who will chair the meeting.

Kim said his delegation "will take a sincere approach to any proposals, no matter who may submit them, if they are conducive to the strengthening and development of the international Olympic movement and the cause of the reunification of the Korean nation."

Samaranch suggested the meeting after Seoul proposed talks with the North on forming a joint team for the 1988 Games.

He has said both sides agreed to

tackle "all questions concerning the Olympic movement and the sports movement in general."

After a visit to Seoul last August, the IOC chief rejected the North's proposal for sharing the Games, saying the IOC had already chosen the South Korean capital as the Games' venue.

The northern plan would require a change in the Olympic charter's rules which say the organising of the Games is up to the national committee of the country of the chosen city.

Samaranch has asked that no mention of politics be made at Tuesday's meeting, which is also expected to broach the subject of forming a unified Korean team.

North Korea, which joined last year's Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles Games, has been an Olympic participant since 1972.

Mandlikova leads Czechs at Federation Cup

TOYOTA, Japan (R) — Cup holders Czechoslovakia took a 2-0 lead over Greece Monday to become the first nation to advance into the second round of the Federation Cup Women's Team Tennis Championship.

Hana Mandlikova, the 23-year-old U.S. Open Champion, easily trounced Angeliki Kanellou of Greece 6-2, 6-0 and Czechoslovakia's second top player Helena Sukova beat Olga Tsoropoulou 6-1, 6-4 in the best of three matches.

Mandlikova, who beat Chris Evert Lloyd and Martina Navratilova at the U.S. Open last month, overpowered Kanellou with powerful serves and volley placements.

The tall Sukova had trouble with her serves. She made 27 faults, including four double faults, but managed to outplay her opponent with passing and drop shots.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Tanzanian wins Ukiah 10K run

UKIAH, California (R) — Olympic marathoner Gidamis Shabanga of Tanzania outkicked a strong international field Sunday to win the 10-kilometre Ukiah International Run in 28 minutes and 29 seconds.

Running into a 45 kilometre-per-hour wind, Shabanga, who lives in Texas, remained in a pack of lead runners until he took the lead of the \$45,000 race at the 9.6 km mark.

"No one wanted to push the pace because of the wind," Shabanga said.

Steve McCormick of the United States finished second at 28:31 and early leader Ed Eyestone of the United States, the 1985 NCAA five and 10-kilometre champion, was third in 28:32.

The top 24 men finishers completed the downhill course along the city's main street in less than 30 minutes.

Lynn Williams of Canada, the 1984 Olympic 3,000-metre bronze medalist who last week won the Fifth Avenue Mile in New York, easily won the women's division in 32:21.

Tennis tournament to begin at Al-Hussein Courts on Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Tennis Federation (JTF) has announced that its second annual tennis championship will begin at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, October 10 at the newly-designated Al Hussein Tennis Courts.

JTF Secretary-General Ishaq Jarallah is hoping for a big turnout this year, and noted in his announcement that the number of court members has doubled since last year.

All registered and paid-up members are eligible to enter the competition, which includes men's and women's singles and doubles brackets as well as mixed doubles. Entry forms are available at the courts, and there is a one dinar entry fee for each event entered.

Mr. Jarallah also explained that the courts, formerly known as "the JTF courts," or "the public courts," have been renamed the Al Hussein Tennis Courts in recognition of His Majesty King Hussein's strong support for tennis in Jordan and in particular his contribution to the construction of these courts.

Morocco goes 3-up on Libya

LONDON (R) — Morocco moved to the threshold of the World Cup soccer finals Sunday night when they helped themselves to a three-goal advantage in the opening leg of their final Africa Zone qualifying match by scoring twice in the final five minutes to beat Libya 3-0 in Rabat.

The aggregate winner after the return match in 12 days time will travel to next year's finals in Mexico as one of two African qualifiers.

Mustapha Merry shot Morocco 1-0 ahead with a penalty on the stroke of halftime before Timoumi and Aziz struck vital blows for the home side in the 85th and 89th minutes respectively.

French rejoice at Prost's title

By Derek Parr
Reuter

PARIS — Thousands of Frenchmen Monday shared Alain Prost's joy and relief at beating his jinx and bringing the World Drivers' title home to France for the first time.

Prost's triumph, clinched at the European Grand Prix at Brands Hatch on Sunday, ended a long wait for himself and an even longer one for Frenchmen who have yearned for 35 years for a world champion of their own.

A year ago the whole of France was crouched around a television set as people urged Prost to victory in the Portuguese Grand Prix, the final showdown of the season.

The master obliged with a win — his seventh of the year equalling the 1963 record of Britain's Jim Clark — but it was still not enough.

McLaren team-mate Niki Lauda took second place and pipped the Frenchman for the title — his second near miss in two years — by just half a point.

This season the Frenchman has made no mistake, winning five races which took his career total to 21 — a figure surpassed only by Jackie Stewart (27), fellow Scot Clark and Lauda (both with 25), and Argentine maestro Juan Manuel Fangio (24).

For France, Prost's success has brightened a motor racing year overshadowed by the decision of the state-run Renault company to pull out of Formula One in 1986.

Prost, now 30, was Renault's outstanding asset from 1981 to 1983 when driver and management parted in acrimony with Prost saying he had been made to feel to blame for the failure to secure the world title.

Renault, who revolutionised motor racing by introducing the turbo engine in 1977, decided Formula One was too expensive an undertaking with the group's losses running to billions of francs and their racing fortunes fading since Prost's departure.

Prost scored nine of Renault's 15 wins, including the last in the 1983 Austrian Grand Prix.

Jean-Pierre Jabouille registered the first in 1979 — appropriately in the French Grand Prix at Dijon, where Prost, who underwent a winning apprenticeship in karts and Formula Three, achieved his first Formula One victory in 1981.

Jabouille won twice for Renault and René Arnoux, target of Prost's wrath when he failed to let him through in the 1982 French Grand Prix, earned them four wins.

French involvement in Formula One racing is as old as the world championship. Maurice Tri-

gnin was their first winner in the Monaco Grand Prix of 1955 and 1958 and was the leading trail-blazer with the late Jean Behra.

The sixties were a lean decade and 15 years elapsed before the richly-gifted François Cevert won their third Grand Prix at Watkins Glen in 1971. But Cevert's talent was cruelly destroyed in a fatal crash at the same track in 1973.

Patrick Depailler, twice a Grand Prix winner, was another victim of the sport, killed in practice for the West German Grand Prix in 1980, while Didier Pironi survived an appalling accident at the same Hockenheim circuit two years later.

Pironi, who had looked destined to clinch the championship at last for France, was brought out with his legs crushed and has not raced since. Jean-Pierre Beltoise, Jacques Daffre, Jabouille, Arnoux and Patrick Tambay have all topped the victory podium on occasions but each has been outshone by Prost.

Prost, twice denied the crown, has seen his popularity grow in France. A poll in L'Equipe magazine this weekend put a Prost world title just below a French World Cup soccer triumph in Mexico at the top of a list of sporting dreams.

World chess championship deadlock continues

MOSCOW (R) — After 12 games and a month's play, the bitter struggle between Soviet grandmasters Anatoly Karpov and Garry Kasparov to be undisputed world chess champion remains inconclusive, with the combatants locked in a 6-6 tie.

Both men have won two games with the rest drawn, in a match notable for ferocious fighting and fluctuating fortunes.

If no superiority is proven by the 24th game, Karpov will retain his title.

This contest is a replay of the turbulent marathon which began in September 1984 and was con-

trovertedly halted without a decision by International Chess Federation (FIDE) President Florencio Campomanes after five months and 48 games.

Although Karpov led 5-3 at the time of the abandonment, he had squandered a 5-0 lead. When Kasparov won the last two games Campomanes stepped in, an action widely regarded as a rescue operation to save the flagging world champion.

Kasparov said in an interview with the West German magazine Der Spiegel last June that in his opinion Karpov had "forfeited his right to call himself world champion."

Kasparov also admitted that he had yet to earn a claim to the title, saying he felt the title was now vacant.

In the first series, which had no game limit, the victor would have been the first player to score six wins. But because the two players are so evenly matched, the system was discarded as unwieldy and switched to a 24-game affair at a FIDE congress in Austria earlier this year.

Karpov not only enjoys the champion's advantage of keeping his title in the event of a tie but has the right of an automatic return match if he loses, a bonus that was dropped from the rules as unfair in 1983.

Sources close to the contest say the struggle behind the scenes is at least as sour as the battle on the board. With many Soviet chess officials linked to Karpov, a Kasparov victory could spell the end of many careers.

PREQUALIFICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CENTRES AND NURSING PARAMEDICAL INTEGRATED TRAINING INSTITUTE N.P.I.T.I. IN IRBID INVITATION FOR BUILDING CONTRACTORS

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1. Primary and comprehensive health centres.
2. N.P.I.T.I. in Irbid the following projects which will be constructed in Jordan starting in 1986.

A) Project description:-

- The project consists of the following buildings:-
- a) — 25 centres (P.H.C.) of 370 sq.m. each
 - b) — 2 centres (C.H.C.) of 730 sq.m. each
 - c) — 8 centres (C.H.C.) of 800 sq.m. each
 - d) — 3 centres (C.H.C.) of 1000 sq.m. each

The (38) centres are to be constructed on different sites.

The tenders for construction are sliced in (6) packages and shall be announced in sequence.

Every contractor shall be awarded one package only.

2. N.P.I.T.I. in Irbid.

The project consists of 3 buildings, students residence of an area 5868 m², staff residence of an area 285 m² and the academic building of an area 3772 m².

B) These projects are financed partially by the World Bank.

C) Conditions for pre-qualification:

— Prequalification forms may be obtained from the Government Tenders Directorate - Ministry of Public Works - Amman starting Oct. 7, 1985, against a non-refundable fee of JD 25,000 for health centres and JD 15,000 for N.P.I.T.I. The last date for obtaining forms shall be on Oct. 27, 1985.

— FIDIC forms shall be used, and the prequalification submission shall include supporting documentation.

— Capital shall be quoted in U.S. dollars.

— Date for submission of pre-qualification forms shall be Wednesday Nov. 20, 1985, at 12:00 noon.

D) Prequalification results will be announced on Dec. 15, 1985.

E) Any queries concerning prequalification shall be addressed to:

Chairman - Central Tenders Committee.
Ministry of Public Works.
P.O. Box 1220, Telex 21944 MPW JO
Amman - Jordan.

Director
Government Tenders Directorate.

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Take away is available
Open daily 12:00-3:30 p.m.
6:30 - Midnight
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TIME

GORBACHEV ON THE ELYSEE ('Charm Offensive' bears fruit, cover story in Europe)
WE'LL CUT ICBMS TOO: SOVIETS (Previously unrevealed provisions in Soviet arms control proposals)
BAILING OUT THE THIRD WORLD (U.S. pushes for IMF to open up)

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4170/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3670/75	Canadian dollars
	2.6425/55	West German marks
	2.9800/30	Dutch guilders
	2.1630/60	Swiss francs
	53.72/82	Belgian francs
	8.0650/750	French francs
	1784/1787	Italian lire
	216.25/55	Japanese yen
	7.9775/875	Swedish crowns
	7.8800/900	Norwegian crowns
	9.5825/925	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	326.40/326.90	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Share prices closed mostly easier for want of support, dealers said. At 1430 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was off 5.1 to 1307.9.

Carlton Communications' talks with Thames Television's major shareholders Thorn EMI and BET on acquiring Thames pushed Thorn and BET higher at the outset but they closed off their levels. Thorn was 4p up 371 after 377 and BET ended 2p up at 315 after 320. Carlton's quotation was suspended at 825p.

Government bonds eased as much as 1/4 point in sluggish trading. The U.K. September producer prices had little impact. North Americans were mixed and golds declined with bullion.

Life insurance closed below best levels after a higher opening. Dealers said initial firmness reflected the view that the government may offer incentives for joining private pension plans under its proposals to abolish the state earnings related pension scheme. Refuge was 25p up at 380 after 385.

Banks were generally higher on the possibility of the IMF making more funds available to indebted developing countries. Natwest was 10p up at 647. Oils ended narrowly mixed.

Duffry Bitumastic gained 8p to 56 after the bid approach from Kalon group, off 1 1/2p at 25, while Abbey Plc rose 4p to 87 following offer terms from French Keir, down a penny at 189p.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when you can get into whatever details are necessary for all the action that should have taken place in your life the past three days which were good for deciding policies.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get right at that work ahead of you, be it at home, office, or on the road and get good results. Plan time wisely.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Good day to visit your barber or beauty shop and get your appearance improved, and later get good results in business dealings.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) There are small tasks to handle at home, so don't procrastinate any longer and get them done. Get that energy flowing.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Be precise in handling any shopping and marketing that you have to do, and show that you are efficient.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Study your property well and see what repairs are needed and plan to make them. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan to be with a small group of friends in the evening for a delightful time together. Don't be extravagant though.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get small tasks handled and clear the slate for bigger things ahead. Be careful not to get caught in some trap or other. Be alert.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Work toward gaining several goals and perfect your special talents. Avoid one who is a trouble-maker.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you have any doubts, consult with a higher-up. Take no risks where you are concerned and be careful of any tampering.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) There are changes being made, so study every phase of them. Consult this person early for best results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Show that you are eager to help a friend in distress. Then keep a promise you made to one in business, and be precise at it.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Much conversation with a partner can bring good results now and the future can be made brighter for both of you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one of those charming young persons who can comprehend language very well, especially the English tongue, and would do well in the field of teaching, and should have the education slanted along such lines.

THE Daily Crossword

by Fran Ragus

ACROSS

- 1 Parity
- 2 Swirling cover
- 3 Series
- 4 East fiber
- 5 74, computer
- 6 15, fluorescent
- 7 stone
- 8 John Barrymore
- 9 Stock
- 10 Contend
- 11 Tracked
- 12 State strongly
- 13 Equipment
- 14 Hellett's
- 15 tortle
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13 Legs

14 Solstice

15 Some exams

16 Bordeaux wine

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Policeman killed, 220 hurt in London riots

200 policemen wounded as rioters use guns

LONDON (R) — A policeman died and 220 people were injured in London riots which saw the first recorded use of guns by rioters in street clashes in mainland Britain, police said.

The officer who died after being stabbed Sunday was also the first policeman killed during inner city rioting on the mainland.

At least five people suffered gun-shot wounds in the riot by hundreds of mostly black youths in the north London suburb of Tottenham. The trouble began over the death of a black woman during a police search of her home.

Two hundred of the wounded were police officers. Five were said to be in a serious condition. Police said youths set fire to a car in an isolated incident early Monday but they described the Tottenham area as calm but tense Monday morning.

Scores of armoured police vehicles and teams of reinforcements were standing by.

Earlier, more than 500 police in full riot gear and armed with plastic bullet guns manned the streets, though no bullets were reported to have been fired.

Three of the injured policemen and at least three journalists were shot in what government officials said was an unprecedented use of shotguns used against police in urban riots in mainland Britain.

Youths brandished bricks, nailed clubs and petrol bombs, setting fire to cars, shops and homes and terrifying local residents. A shower of missiles rained onto lines of police sheltering behind riot shields.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said two television crew members had shot wounds.

Britain's national news agency, the Press Association, said one of its reporters was in hospital after being hit by shotgun pellets in the hand, groin and chest.

Earlier Sunday a crowd had demonstrated relatively peacefully outside Tottenham Police Station following the death of a 49-year-old West Indian woman who collapsed and died while police were searching her home on Saturday.

The rioting began on a public housing estate after police constable Keith Blacklock, 40, went to investigate a fire. Witnesses said he was attacked by a mob of more than 100. He died from a stab wound in the neck.

The violence followed two nights of rioting last week in the south London area of Brixton, from where a wave of riots spread across Britain four years ago.

Serious riots broke out in the central city of Birmingham last month and there have been minor disturbances in other parts of the country.

Government engineer Julian Aved told reporters that day it was highly improbable that anyone could still be alive inside the ruins of the colonial house in the centre of the city, one of nearly 1,000 buildings destroyed or badly damaged by the worst quake in Mexican history.

Rescue workers at the site said that the mountains of rubble to be moved made it unlikely that Moncho's body could be found soon.

The reporters and camera crews were packing to go home Sunday after their round-the-clock vigil, the crowds of onlookers had thinned and the old women in shawls had stopped their endless religious chants. Even the hamburger sellers had moved on.

Mexicans search for body of schoolboy

MEXICO CITY (R) — Bulldozers and a heavy crane have begun searching for the body of a schoolboy now presumed dead after spending more than two weeks buried alive under the debris of Mexico's earthquake.

All hope of saving nine-year-old Luis Ramon "Moncho" Nafarrate had faded Sunday night, with rescuers saying there had been no sign of life amid the rubble for the previous 24 hours.

"Such is life — sometimes you win, sometimes you lose. I had the misfortune of losing a son," his father Mauricio Nafarrate told reporters.

Moncho's ordeal was watched by an army of newspaper and television reporters from around the world ever since he was discovered by chance last Wednesday, the last trapped survivor of a quake which killed at least 7,000 people on Sept. 19.

Communicating with his would-be rescuers with feeble taps on an iron girder, he had indicated that he was cold and hungry but not badly hurt.

Rescue teams from the United States, Algeria and Canada had joined Mexican miners in their slow-motion race to cut through the solid concrete blocks separating them from the boy.

But even with the most advanced equipment, progress was

painfully slow — about a foot an hour — and as the tapping grew weaker the boy's location became more difficult to pinpoint.

By the weekend, rescuers were saying privately they felt there was little hope. On Saturday, an earthquake in the wreckage made the site too dangerous for miners to enter.

The spokesman said the state would arrange an operation should it become necessary.

Meanwhile petrol bombs thrown at a black home injured a baby as widespread unrest hit South African black townships overnight, police said Monday.

The baby was hurt at Chesterville near Durban. In Johannesburg's black satellite city of Soweto, a policeman and a householder fired guns at crowds stoning their homes.

On the political front, a cabinet minister Sunday night attacked the group areas act, a cornerstone of apartheid which compels non-whites to live in segregated townships.

The spokesman said the state would arrange an operation should it become necessary.

Meanwhile petrol bombs thrown at a black home injured a baby as widespread unrest hit South African black townships overnight, police said Monday.

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Nelson Mandela

Mandela does not have cancer

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Jailed South African black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela is not suffering from cancer, a spokesman for the prisons department said Monday.

He said his statement was being issued following speculation in the local media about the health of Mr. Mandela, 67, who has been behind bars for over 20 years.

A lawyer for Mr. Mandela said last week that his client, leader of the outlawed African National Congress, would have surgery within two weeks.

The spokesman said "high-level" medical tests had established Mr. Mandela was suffering from prostatitis. Family members who visited Mr. Mandela last month said his enlarged prostate might have to be removed.

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Soares suffers defeat; Eanes' new party wins striking support in polls

LISBON (R) — The Socialists of Prime Minister Mario Soares suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the Social Democrats in Portugal's general elections, while the fledgling Democratic Renewal Party (PRD) supplanted the Communists as the third largest group.

The PRD, formed by supporters of President Antonio Ramalho Eanes, who steps down from office in January after 10 years, could play a pivotal role in the 250-member parliament as Portugal prepares to enter the European Community in the new year.

Although election victor Anibal Cavaco Silva, 46, said his Social Democrats were ready to form a right-centre government with the Christian Democrats, the two parties would not command a majority in parliament.

Almost complete provisional results from polling gave the Social Democrats around 30 per cent of the votes and 85 seats.

The Socialists won 21 per cent and 55 seats, the PRD 18 per cent and 45 seats, the Communists and their allies 15.5 per cent and 37 seats and the Christian Democrats, 10 per cent and 20 seats.

Four deputies are elected by Portuguese emigrants in votes to be counted on Oct. 16, while the eight remaining seats were still undecided because of boycotts and other irregularities when the computer centre closed at 0300 GMT.

After the shift towards the centre left the country with yet another hung parliament, Social Democratic leader Anibal Cavaco Silva, 46, said his party would try to form a coalition with the Christian Democrats.

"We are ready to talk with other parties to form a government to solve the country's problems," he said.

"We said during our campaign that if it was necessary to form a coalition we would invite the Christian Democrats to do so — we maintain the same position."

But Christian Democrat leader Francisco Lucas Pires said his party's clear defeat made coalitions "even more difficult".

Portugal has suffered a series of unstable coalition governments in its 11 years of democracy after the armed forces revolution of 1974.

The Socialist defeat was a bitter



Antonio Ramalho Eanes



Mario Soares

blow for Mr. Soares, 60, three times prime minister and candidate to succeed Mr. Eanes, as well as for his close aide Antonio Almeida Santos, 59, who had hoped to take over the next government.

Conceding defeat, Mr. Almeida Santos, former minister of state, said: "We will provide a constructive and tough opposition in the new parliament. We have lost a battle, but we have not lost the war."

He blamed the Socialist reverse on a shift of votes to the PRD.

Another Socialist leader, Antonio Campos, said the party had paid the price of its austerity programme — denounced by Mr. Cavaco Silva as too harsh when the two-year coalition between Socialists and Social Democrats collapsed in June.

SEOUL (R) — South Korea Monday accused the North of seizing 12 Southern fishermen Sunday night in what it said was an attempt to disrupt current World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) meetings in Seoul.

A government statement said the Communist North had planned the incident to create tension and unsettle the meetings as well as the 1988 Asian Games and the 1988 Olympics, both in the South Korean capital.

It demanded the immediate return of the boat and crew, saying the "inhuman, barbarous military provocation" would not help inter-Korean dialogue.

The two sides are engaged in trade, Red Cross, parliamentary and sports talks aimed at easing

tension and achieving a peaceful reunification of the divided peninsula.

The statement said the fishermen's 86-ton boat was on the high seas when seized at gunpoint by a North Korean patrol boat.

South Korea has accused Pyongyang of holding more than 400 fishermen and about 30 fishing boats seized from South since the end of the Korean war in 1953.

North Korea charged that the South Korean boat and its crew had been apprehended after illegally infiltrating deep into North Korean waters, Pyongyang Radio said Monday.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the incident was being investigated.

Police said the injured included passengers on the bus and train as well as pedestrians waiting at the crossing.

A police spokesman said the gate-keeper in charge of the crossing, sacked for negligence by railway authorities, had been arrested.

At least 37 survivors were taken to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital, where doctors ran out of beds and had to tend to the wounded in corridors crowded with policemen and frantic relatives.

He said bodies were scattered right and left as the bus was dragged forward by the train. "I have never seen such a horrible sight. There were arms and legs all over and blood on the tracks."

Both the road and the railway crossing curved at the point where they crossed and neither the bus driver nor the train driver could have seen each other coming," he said.

Fire on North Sea oil rig put out

OSLO (R) — Fire blazed on a North Sea oil rig off Norway after a blow out early Monday and, although it was later put out, officials said the structure remained too dangerous for rescuers to search for one man reported missing.

The man, a 28-year-old Norwegian, was the only worker on the West Vanguard drilling rig unaccounted for after an explosion ripped through the platform, sending flames shooting into the air and setting the sea on fire.

The 79 other workers, among them Britons, an Irishman, an American and a Filipino, took to lifeboats.

Two suffered burns and one had a heart attack. Most had time to board lifeboats but two had to jump into the sea.

The incident occurred when a gas pocket was hit soon after exploratory drilling began on the Haltenbanken oil field off Trondheim, central Norway.

Rescuers said the sea for 100 square metres round the rig glazied most of the night before all the gas in the pocket emptied at about 9 a.m. (0800 GMT) Monday morning.

Willy Olsen, a spokesman for Norway's State Oil Company, Statoil, operators of the semi-submersible rig, told Reuters the West Vanguard was listing badly and in dangerous condition but he hoped it could be towed back to the mainland.

The last blow-out in the Norwegian offshore oil fields was in 1977 on the Ekofisk oil and gas complex. The resulting fire took eight days to extinguish.

leau of the Bally had paid tribute to his navigation skills, Castle said. "I'll say to the captain of that ship that on seaman to seaman terms, we'll always be polite and respectful. I'm sorry that what we're doing is upsetting them."

Souleau said the ecologists' flag ship veered onto collision courses with French vessels at least twice in the past four days.

The most dangerous incident took place last Friday night when Greenpeace swept at full speed to within 20 metres of the stern of the French tug Hyppotame, he said.

Seoul accuses Pyongyang of seizing 12 fishermen

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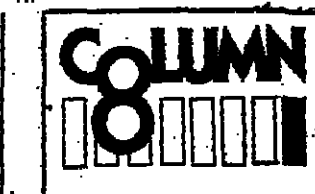
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At least 37 survivors were taken to the Gauhati Medical College Hospital, where doctors ran out of beds and had to tend to the wounded in corridors crowded with policemen and frantic relatives.



Saudis start AIDS screen tests

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has started screening donors and imported blood supplies for signs of AIDS, the director of the Saudi Central Blood Bank said Monday. Abdullah Al Drees said by telephone from Riyadh that the kingdom had also instructed officials at entry points not to allow imported blood supplies in until tests had been carried out to ensure they did not carry the AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) virus. Officials say no cases of AIDS have yet been reported in the kingdom. In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Al Itihad newspaper said the authorities will screen foreign cooks, waiters and house servants starting next month for signs of AIDS. It quoted Health Ministry undersecretary Abdul Rahim Jassar as saying blood tests on these groups would be carried out because of their close contact with families.

Zimbabwe infant mortality halved

HARARE (R) — Zimbabwe's infant mortality has been halved in five years from 120 deaths per 1,000 children in 1980, Health Minister Sydney Sekeramayi said. The reduction is largely due to improved health services, he told state-run Zimbabwe Television, adding that he expected the rate to drop further. Zimbabwe has free health services for all people earning less than 150 Zimbabwean dollars (\$91.50) a month.

Prostitutes look on as police burn red light district

JAKARTA (R) — More than 100 prostitutes, some still wearing their nightgown costumes and make-up, watched helplessly Monday as paramilitary police burnt down an illegal brothel complex in central Jakarta. Several hundred prostitutes, mostly poverty-stricken women from rural Java, were informed in advance that their flimsy makeshift brothels would be razed, a spokesman for the governor's office told Reuters. Fires and prostitutes watched as police started the controlled fire, with firemen standing by to ensure the blaze did not spread to busy adjoining markets. A 25-year-old prostitute named Sumi said many of her friends had gone back to their villages to avoid the police swoop. "I don't know where I'm going to sleep tonight," she said. Only part of the complex was burnt down in the operation — part of an ambitious slum clearance programme. Other brothels were demolished. Officials said there were no casualties.

Filipino accused of helping pirates killed

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — Philippine marines Monday shot dead a policeman accused of joining a pirate raid in Malaysia that killed 10 people, military sources said. They told Reuters Sunday that a non-commissioned officer of the Philippine constabulary, was trying to escape while being transferred to marine headquarters here. They said two more constabulary members were under arrest in connection with the Sept. 23 killings during a pirate raid in Lahad Datu in the east Malaysian state of Sabah. There was no official comment from the military but one military source told Reuters nearly all the 20 or so pirates were serving or former members of the constabulary.

Brains of executed criminals used for studies

MIAMI (R) — Florida will investigate the unauthorised use of the brains of executed criminals by a medical researcher, the governor's office has said. The probe was ordered after state officials acknowledged newspaper reports that brains had been given to neurobiologist Christiana Leonard for her medical studies on the criminal mind. The officials said no prior consent had been obtained from the executed criminals or their families. A spokesman for governor Bob Graham said the governor had asked his general counsel and the Florida Medical Examiner's Commission, which regulates the state's coroners, to investigate the matter for possible legal and disciplinary action. "He had no idea this kind of thing was going on," the spokesman said.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SEARAT
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PARTNER NEEDS THE HELP!

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ K104
♥ 852
♦ QJ5
♣ K1053

EAST
♠ 9832
♥ A6
♦ 103
♣ AJ874

SOUTH
♠ AQJ8
♥ 109
♦ AK876
♣ Q6

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 1
2 2 3 3
3 3 4 4
4 4 5 5
Pass

Opening lead: King of ♣.

The Royal Viking Line has become increasingly interested in bridge. Not only are they the only passenger line to have bridge instructors on every cruise, but now, in conjunction with the International Bridge Press Association, they are launching a "Bridge Player of the Year" competition.

Each year, IBPA members will nominate 10 players as candidates for the award. The players will then submit hands that contain instructional material, and the bridge

Greenpeace captain does not rule out raid on Mururoa atoll

ABOARD THE FRENCH CORVETTE BALNY, South Pacific (R) — The captain of a protest flotilla Monday stopped short of ruling out a thrust into territorial waters around France's South Pacific nuclear testing ground.

Jonathan Castle, skipper of the converted tug Greenpeace, was speaking in a two-way radio interview with a Reuters correspondent aboard this French warship.

As the ships passed each other about 500 metres apart some 30 miles off the test site at Mururoa atoll, Castle said: "at the moment we're not thinking of crossing the 12-mile (territorial) limit. That's always a possibility, but we're not considering it just at the moment."

He added: "Everything is open to us...we'll see what the reaction of the (French) military is."

Castle said he was aware of international laws that would let the French seize any ship which launched smaller vessels into the prohibited zone, even though it remained outside.

"That doesn't deter us particularly, but of course we take it into account with what we're doing...we respect their territorial limit. We'll bear that in mind."

Castle, sounding relaxed and confident, scoffed at French suspicions that he was planning commando-style raids against Mururoa, adding: "We're not considering a commando action because we're not commandos."

"I think it's a bit funny to say commandos in reference to us when there's four warships with all the guns, missiles, rockets and torpedoes in the world on their side, and all we have on our side is one little yacht and one old tugboat."

Castle said the flotilla, organised by the Greenpeace environmental group to protest at the nuclear tests, could stay in the area for 18 months if necessary.

"We're quite happy sitting here in the nice trade winds off Mururoa," he said.

Castle said he had the option of accepting an invitation from the mayor of Mangrove in the French-administered Gambier Islands, some 300 miles south east of Mururoa.

"He seems quite concerned about the health of his people, which is not surprising. So I think we'll apply for permission to visit the island in order that independent observers can witness the situation."

Told that Captain Francois Sou-

leau of the Balny had paid tribute to his navigation skills, Castle said: "I'll say to the captain of that ship that on seaman to seaman terms, we'll always be polite and respectful. I'm sorry that what we're doing is upsetting them."

Souleau said the ecologists' flag ship veered onto collision courses with French vessels at least twice in the past four days.

The most dangerous incident took place last Friday night when Greenpeace swept at full speed to within 20 metres of the stern of the French tug Hyppotame, he said.

The 60-metre converted ocean-going tug first adopted what he called aggressive tactics on Tuesday when it suddenly picked up speed and raced close by the Balny.

"It was a bit of a provocation to annoy us and show they are not afraid of us," the Balny commander told reporters aboard his 2,150-tonne warship.

However protest coordinator Gerd Leopold said over the weekend he did not want a confrontation with the French Navy.

In a radio link with Wellington Leopold told Reuters: "The only confrontation we want with France is a confrontation of ideas."

He said: "We are here for a

peaceful protest against nuclear tests and nuclear weapons everywhere. If France is complaining, they should explain why they find it necessary to follow us about in international waters."

The Greenpeace made contact Saturday with the first of three yachts sailing to join its protest against a new series of underground tests due to begin at Mururoa atoll later this month.

High-speed zodiac dinghies later transferred what Captain Souleau termed a surprising amount of large equipment from Greenpeace to the Vega, a 13-metre ketch.

The material could have included similar inflatable boats for commando raids on the atoll, he said.

A third vessel of the protest flotilla, the Breeze, reached the area on Saturday from New Zealand. The fourth, the Alliance, was not expected before next Tuesday.

Captain Souleau paid tribute to the seamanship of the ecologists, in particular to Greenpeace skipper Jonathan Castle.

On several occasions, they had displayed "remarkable professionalism and impressive dexterity in handling their lightweight zodiacs in choppy seas," he said.

"They certainly have a pro-

found knowledge of the sea. They have shown great endurance and are adversaries who deserve respect," he said.

Captain Souleau, an officer with more than 20 years service, described the Guernsey-born Castle as a sailor of "very high quality" who navigated with daring and precision.

So far none of the protest vessels has penetrated a 12-mile zone around Mururoa and the neighbouring atoll of Fangataufa, which France has closed to unauthorised shipping for the duration of the tests.

About 20 marine commandos specially trained are believed to be on board one of four French ships currently shadowing the protesters.

However Captain Souleau said the ecologists' zodiacs were more powerful than those of the French commandos, and could reach the atoll within 15 minutes of being launched from outside the territorial limit.

Some 1,500 foreign Legionnaires and marine infantry at Mururoa were reinforced recently by 12 members of a crack Police Intervention Group specifically to deal with any landing by Greenpeace militants, according to French officials.